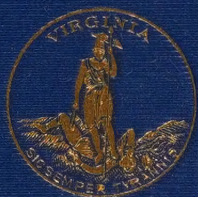
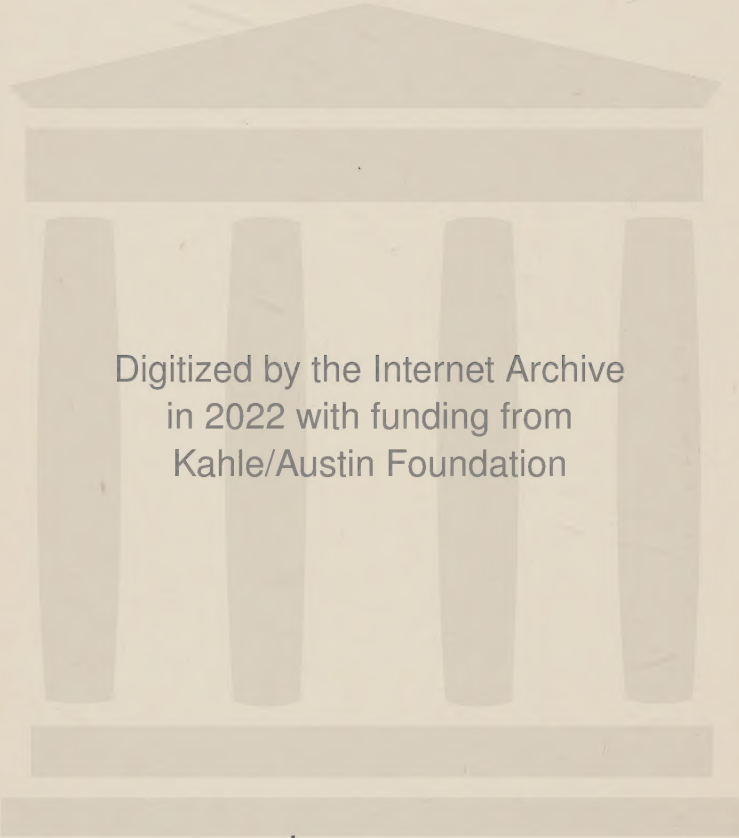




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# OFFICIAL LETTERS

OF THE

## Governors of the State of Virginia

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### Vol. II

### The Letters of Thomas Jefferson



Published by the Virginia State Library

H. R. McILWAINE, GENERAL EDITOR

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RICHMOND:

1928





## PREFACE

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Volume 2 of the "Official Letters of the Governors of the State of Virginia", the volume in hand, contains the letters of Thomas Jefferson, the second governor of Virginia under statehood (and those of the persons acting in his stead during absences) for his two years of service.

His first term began June 1, 1779, and should have ended May 31, 1780, since elections were for only one year, but Jefferson was not re-elected by the General Assembly till June 2, 1780, and was not notified of his election till June 4, when he "returned the following answer":

I receive with great satisfaction this testimony of the public approbation, and beg leave through you gentlemen to return my sincere thanks to the General Assembly. I shall cheerfully again encounter the anxieties and assiduities inseparable from the important office to which you are pleased a second time to call me, and only wish to be able to call forth those effectual exertions of my country, which our friends expect, and the present emergency requires. (*See Journal of the House of Delegates of Virginia for the May, June, July session, 1780, p. 34.*)

Interpreting his term of office to continue for only one year, and not until his successor qualified, he did not continue his duties beyond June 3, 1781. The last letter in this book bears that date.

This successor was General Thomas Nelson, who was not elected till June 12, 1781, the government being conducted in the meanwhile, as the constitution provided, by the president of the Council of State, acting as lieutenant-governor.

Unfortunately, not all the letter-books of Thomas Jefferson are in existence—or, if in existence, they have not come to light. The books containing his letters from the beginning of his first term of office to the time of the capture of Richmond by Arnold, January 5, 1781, were taken away by the British. This statement is based on the fact that one of these books is now in the British Museum, and that all of them (as did the letter-books of Patrick Henry as governor, probably taken away at the same time) contained information of great value to the British in the prosecution of the war and were, consequently, lawful military prize.

There were, probably, several of these Jefferson letter-books, for the one now in the British Museum contains letters for the period July 27—September 18, 1780, only. There must have been one or two letter-books, then, for the period June 1, 1779—July 26, 1780, and one for the period September 19, 1780, till early in January, 1781, when the clerk on the approach of Arnold to Richmond ceased for the time being his work of transcribing.

In the Virginia State Library there are two copies of this British Museum book, one a typewritten copy and the other a photostat copy, the latter secured when on close examination the typewritten copy was found to contain many manifest copyist's errors.

For dates before July 27, 1780, the various printed collections of Jefferson's letters have been drawn upon and occasionally other sources when these collections failed. A search has been made for every official letter of Jefferson, whether in what may be called "collections" or not, or whether heretofore printed or not. Since the source of each letter is given in the text, it has not been deemed necessary to print a list of these sources here. A glance at the text will show their multiplicity.

Jefferson undoubtedly wrote before July 27, 1780, many official letters (or the president of the Council carrying on as lieutenant-governor in Jefferson's occasional absences wrote them) which have not been preserved. Hence, since for the time of the Revolutionary War it is designed to supplement the incomplete collection of letters with excerpts from other sources giving information probably contained in the missing letters, the *Virginia Gazette*, the "Journal of the House of Delegates", and the Virginia State Archives (including many classes of documents) have been resorted to. These other sources have been drawn upon whenever the letter-books have failed.

Jefferson had a way in times of stress of writing short replies to letters from his military assistants on the backs of the original letters and returning them to their writers. Many such letters remain in the Virginia State Archives, the most of which have been printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers", some, however, having been overlooked. All that have been found have been inserted in the present volume.

Whereas in former collections of letters of Jefferson only the most important letters have been printed, many letters having been omitted, even though the editors had a chance to include them, in this collection of the official letters of Jefferson as governor every letter which a careful search of the whole field has brought to light has been included. Many of them, taken singly, may appear to be unimportant, but they have a cumulative value. They show the great industry of the writer and the details which it was necessary for him to give his attention to. The whole collection enables the student to form a just conception of the difficulties met by their writer and of the spirit in which they were met. Nothing that throws light on the career or on the personality of Jefferson, one of the greatest men of American history, should be considered trivial.

More important still, the collection is of special value as a source book of history. The story of Virginia's part in the Revolutionary War has not even yet been adequately written. The source material has been much scattered and much of it difficult to get at. With the publication of such volumes as the series to which the present volume belongs the difficulty in the way of presenting an adequate story becomes less and less. Students everywhere, and not merely those having it in their power to spend much time in the archives department of the Virginia State Library, will have a chance to apply themselves to the task. There will still remain to be published the minutes or journals of the Executive Council of Virginia for the period of the War and letters of conspicuous participants in the War—notably the



letters of Baron von Steuben and the Marquis de Lafayette in their entirety—but it is to be hoped that it will not be long before all the source material will find its way into print, so that a subject of unusual historical interest and importance, that of Virginia's participation in the American Revolution, a truly epochal struggle, may be examined by many impartial students.

If all of Jefferson's letter-books (or, more properly speaking, the executive letter-books for the period of Jefferson's service as governor) were in existence, the task of the editor of the present volume would have been much simplified. It would have been necessary merely to have the letter-books transcribed and printed, with an occasional word of explanation given in square brackets in the text or in the form of footnotes. But the letters have been obtained from many sources. Sometimes—in fact, more frequently than not—they have been to a certain extent edited. Jefferson had a peculiar way of beginning his sentences, except where these sentences began paragraphs or began with the pronoun "I", with small letters. Most of Jefferson's editors have—mistakenly, in the opinion of the present editor—suppressed this peculiarity. However, some of them have not. Consequently, in this book, in which the style of the immediate source of a letter has always been followed, some letters will be found written in this respect as Jefferson wrote them and some will be found regularized.

This peculiarity of Jefferson's has resulted in many mistakes of transcription. His sentences have been run together and misunderstood. His clerks who copied his letters into the letter-books sometimes copied his peculiarities and sometimes did not. Hence we have variations even in the letter-books. It may be remarked just here, too, that clerks were in those days no more accurate than they are today and that many clerical errors are to be discovered in their work. Occasionally the present editor has called attention to these errors—where the reader might be led astray—but usually he has refrained, thinking that the reader would be able to get along well enough for himself. Though Jefferson has suffered much at the hands of his clerks and other transcribers of his letters, it can not be said that his meaning has in many cases—if any—been absolutely lost. It is only a pity that a man of Jefferson's literary ability and painstaking habits should suffer to the extent he does in his published letters. It is a judgment on him for indulging an idiosyncrasy. The present editor has not considered it his duty to correct what appear to be the mistakes of transcribers and to get back to the true Jefferson. He has, on the contrary, considered it his duty to follow his immediate source—with an occasional note—and let the reader do his own editing.

From the start it was the desire of the editor to print if possible all the letters of Jefferson—and the other material referred to above—in one volume. When in the progress of the work it became obvious that the volume would be a very thick one—much larger than the preceding volume in the series, the Letters of Patrick Henry—he determined to omit in the printing the complimentary close of each letter and the signature. Nothing, it appears to him, has been lost by this procedure and much space has been saved.

As in the case of the preceding volume the editor has had in this volume the aid of Mr. Gaston Lichtenstein and Dr. Robert A. Stewart in the compilation of the letters and of the latter in their collation and arrangement and in the preparation of the notes, to both of whom his acknowledgments and thanks are extended.

It was hoped when the material contained in this book was sent to the printers that every official letter of Jefferson as governor of Virginia had been found and included. However, three have come to light too late to be printed in the body of the book and are, accordingly, given here in the preface.

Two are in the Virginia State Archives, the first of which is not an original letter of Jefferson's but a copy of a note written by Jefferson to the Board of War signifying his assent to an agreement made by that board with a Mr. Moody for his services to the State, and the second is a letter from Jefferson to the commissioners of the specific tax for Essex County. This is an original letter, written by one of Jefferson's clerks but signed by Jefferson, actually sent to the commissioners. It happens to be in the State Archives because the commissioners, in the scarcity of paper existing at that time, wrote their reply on the back and returned it to the governor. This reply, because of its interest, is also printed here. The third letter is an important one written by Jefferson to the president of the Continental Congress and is among the Continental Congress papers in the Library of Congress. These papers have been accessible for many years and it is a little singular that it has not before found its way into print.

There are also given here two short letters of Patrick Henry which have been come upon in the Virginia State Archives since the appearance of Vol. 1 of this series. They are unimportant, to be sure, but in the interests of completeness appear to merit printing here. Not a little is to be learned from them—especially indirectly.

#### AGREEMENT OF THE BOARD OF WAR WITH MR. ——— MOODY AND JEFFERSON'S ASSENT THERETO.

(From Virginia State Archives)

War Office Wmsburg mar. 21. 1780

The Board of War have agreed to allow m<sup>r</sup> Moody for himself and People for their Labour in the service of the State, for and during the Term of five years from the date hereof, after the following Rates, to be paid in Tobacco at 20/ per hundred.

|  |    |   |   |
|--|----|---|---|
| M <sup>r</sup> Moody, for himself and tools..... | £1 | 1 | 0 |
| John Fisher                                      | }  |   |   |
| Matt. Natton                                     |    |   |   |
| Bruton Sullivan                                  |    |   |   |
| James Taylor Jr                                  |    |   |   |
| Daniel M <sup>c</sup> Carty                      |    |   |   |
| William Godfrey.....                             |    | 3 | 0 |
| Francis F. Moody.....                            |    | 3 | 0 |
| Philip Moody Jun <sup>r</sup> .....              |    | 2 | 0 |
| James Reynolds.....                              |    | 2 | 6 |
| Tho <sup>s</sup> Hatton.....                     |    | 2 | 0 |

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M<sup>r</sup> Moody to be boarded: to have the Privilidge of purchasing clothing out of the Country Store for the use of his family—at the same prices as are given by the state his People, clothed, and freed from taxes—

Jas Innes  
Jas Barron

March 23, 1780—

The Executive agree to the Articles of contract proposed by the Board of War with M<sup>r</sup> Moody restraining the termination of the term to five years or the end of the war if it shall sooner happen, instead of Board to himself and men allowing him three rations and one forage and his men one apiece; and explaining the price of Goods taken by him from the public store to be on the Average price which they shall have cost the public..

signed,  
Th Jefferson

[Endorsed:]

Moody }  
with } Agreem<sup>nt</sup>.  
Public }  
March 1780 for  
5 years or during  
the War.

# LETTER FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE SPECIFIC TAX FOR ESSEX CO.

(From Virginia State Archives.)

In Council  
September 6 1780.

Gentlemen,

Be pleased to send us by the Bearer the Tobacco Notes still in your Hands of the Specific Tax. Should any accident prevent your sending them by this opportunity, I am to urge your availing yourself of some other safe and early Conveyance. We do not receive any notes older than January 1779, and suppose that Transfer Notes not returned to us in Time to have them converted into Crop, you have had so converted yourselves.

Essex 48,539

yr. very h<sup>ble</sup>. serv<sup>t</sup>.  
Th Jefferson

## LETTER IN REPLY TO THE FOREGOING.

May it please your Excellency

your Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> requesting a delivery of the Tobacco Notes in our Hands of the specific Tax, came to hand the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, The bearers Name not being specified, in the Letter, we were unable to tell by whom it was sent, or to whom the notes were to be delivered; fortunate for us, that it did not in its slow conveyance, get into the hands of some of our public plunderers, as the letter was unsealed & the Contents known to all, thro' whose hands it passed; We embrace this favorb<sup>le</sup> Oppor<sup>ty</sup> by Mr \_\_\_\_\_ to send

you the Notes of the Tob<sup>o</sup>, in our hands, which after the necessary customs deductions, of 6<sup>pt</sup> for crop and 30 lbs Tobo for Cash amt<sup>s</sup> to 44444 nett tob<sup>o</sup> which we hope will be safely delivered to your Excell

We observe that the Com<sup>rs</sup> have re<sup>d</sup> no notes older than the date mentioned in your letter, the law not specifying the date, or age of Tob<sup>o</sup> The Com<sup>rs</sup> judged that old Tob<sup>o</sup> wou<sup>d</sup> answer the intention of the Law

Commissioners of Specific Tax  
Essex

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(From Continental Congress Papers, Library of  
Congress, No. 71, I fol. 503.)

Richmond Nov<sup>r</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sir

I have the honor of forwarding to your Excellency sundry dispatches received from Maj<sup>r</sup> General Gates. You will observe in these what the General had at first proposed to do with the prisoners taken at Kings Mountain, and that difficulties suggested afterwards had produced subsequent doubts. As to the regulars among those Captives I should think them properly disposed of if joined to the others of their nation now at Winchester, but it is not so easy to decide what should be done with the Tories. to place them at Montgomery (formerly called Fincastle) courthouse wou<sup>d</sup> be very improper indeed. they would there be in the midst of the most disaffected part of our State, and so near the Country possessed by the enemy that their escape would be certain should they not be rescued. nor could that post be recommended as likely to be furnished with provisions. it is also within 8 miles of our Lead Mines the destruction of the works & utensils at which wou<sup>d</sup> do us vital injury. It does not seem expedient to join them to the prisoners in Albemarle or at Winchester because such an addition would render either of those bodies still more formidable & greatly increase the difficulty of subsisting them. Col<sup>o</sup> Campbells proposition is perhaps the least objectionable & having been suggested by him to General Gates was probably the cause of his referring him to us. he saw that the spirit of this part of the Captives is so absolutely broken that they will agree to enlist in our armies for the war or to do any thing else which shall be required of them. He thinks that if employed to the Northward at a distance from their own Country they will never attempt to return & still less to join the enemy. he therefore advises that they be sent on to the Northward and there enlisted & employed either with General Washington's army or still further north if there be occasion. there are enough of them to form a strong battalion. this matter being altogether proper for the determination of Congress I beg leave to submit it to them & to receive their orders as early as possible in what manner to dispose of them. In the meantime as the season is fast advancing which would render it impracticable to move them any distance were they to delay setting out, and it is apparent they must be removed northward of their present situation



and indeed they are now in motion towards the Flower gap & Montgomery County by order of General Gates, I shall immediately take measures for continuing their march Northwardly along the valley between the Blue ridge & the north mountain until I shall be informed where you will chuse to terminate their journey. Considering that they are now under the care of occasional guards of militia only, & that they must be handed on by successive relieves of the same kind, I fear that but too many of them will find means to escape.

I have the honor of being with the most perfect esteem & respect  
your Excellency's most obed<sup>t</sup>.  
& most humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

Th: Jefferson

GOVERNOR HENRY TO MR. ——— PLUME.

(From the Virginia State Archives)

Mr Plume.

Out of the public Leather deliver Col<sup>o</sup> Temple enough to make fifty pair of Boots he paying the same price for it as you have rec<sup>d</sup>. from him for the same Kind.

Sir

y<sup>r</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

May 20<sup>th</sup>. 1778

P. Henry

Col<sup>o</sup> Temple may have paid the above for ought I know but he never paid it to me

W: Plume

GOVERNOR HENRY TO GEORGE WYTHE.

(From the Virginia State Archives)

In Council, Nov<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1777.

Sir,

I send You, for the Perusal of the General Assembly, sundry Letters & Papers I received last Night from Congress and from his Excellency General Washington, some of which may deserve the earliest Attention of the legislative, & others of the executive Department. . These last, however, I was willing to lay before the Assembly, because I would be as communicative as possible even as to such Matters as to them might be only subjects of Curiosity—As soon as this End has been answered, I request the Favour of your returning them to

Sir,

Your most respectful  
and obedient Servant,  
P. Henry

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>

George Wythe Esq<sup>r</sup>

Speaker of the House of Delegates

[Endorsed:]

Letter from the Governor November the 6th 1777

Ordered to lie upon the table





# The Letters of Thomas Jefferson

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## JEFFERSON'S SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE OF HIS ELECTION AS GOVERNOR.

*(From the Virginia Gazette, June 5, 1779.)*

In the HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Tuesday, June 1, 1779.

Mr Harvie, from the committee appointed in conjunction with a committee of the Senate, to notify to Thomas Jefferson, Esq; his appointment to be Governour of this commonwealth, reported that the committee had, according to order, waited on that Gentleman, and notified his appointment, and that he was pleased to return the following answer:

*Gentlemen,*

The honour which the General Assembly have been pleased to confer on me, by calling me to the high office of Governour of this commonwealth, demands my most grateful acknowledgements, which I desire through you Gentlemen, to tender to them with the utmost respect. In a virtuous and free state, no rewards can be so pleasing to sensible minds, as those which include the approbation of our fellow citizens. My great pain is, lest my poor endeavours should fall short of the kind expectations of my country; so far as impartiality, assiduous attention, and sincere affection to the great American cause, shall enable me to fulfil the duties of any appointment, so far I may, with confidence undertake; for all beyond, I must rely on the wise counsels of the General Assembly, and of those whom they have appointed for my aid in those duties. To you, Gentlemen, I return my particular thanks, for the polite terms in which you have been pleased to notify the will of the General Assembly.

*(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Friday, June 4, 1779.

*Resolved*, That the Governor and Council, be advised immediately to appoint proper persons to proceed on certain lines across the country, from courthouse to courthouse of the several counties, and collect the new levies for the continental army, and convey the same to such places of rendezvous as shall be appointed by the proper continental officer; and that they draw on the treasurer for such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of marching and subsisting them to such places.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. FLEMING.

*(From Southern Literary Messenger, III, 306.)*

Williamsburg June 8 1779.

Dear Fleming,

I received your letter and have now to thank you for it. some resolutions of Congress came to hand yesterday desiring an authentic state to be sent them of the cruelties said to have been committed by the enemy during their late invasion. the council had already taken measures to obtain such a state. tho' so near the scene where these barbarities are said to have been committed I am not able yet to decide within myself whether there were such or not. the testimony on both sides is such as if heard separately could not admit a moment's suspension of our faith.

We have lately been extremely disturbed to find a pretty general opinion prevailing that peace and the independence of the thirteen states are now within our power, and that Congress have hesitations on the subject, and delay entering on the consideration. it has even been said that their conduct on this head has been so dissatisfactory to the French minister that he thinks of returning to his own country, ostensibly for better health, but in truth through disgust. such an event would be deplored here as the most dreadful calamity. it is in contemplation of some gentlemen who conferred on the subject to propose the re-establishment of our committees of correspondence; others thought this too slow for the emergency and that plenipotentiary deputies should be sent to satisfy the mind of the French minister, and to set on foot proper measures for procuring the genuine sense of the several states. the whole however subsided on a supposition that the information might not be true, and that our delegates in Congress would think no obligations of secrecy under which they may have been laid sufficient to restrain them from informing their constituents of any proceedings which may involve the fate of their freedom and independance. it would surely be better to carry on a ten years war some time hence than to continue the present an unnecessary moment.

Our land office I think will be opened;<sup>1</sup> the sale of British property take place, and our tax bill put on a better footing. These measures I hope will put our finances into a better way and enable us to cooperate with our sister states in reducing the enormous sums

<sup>1</sup>A bill was passed authorizing the reopening of the Land Office, and John Harvie was elected register. No patents had been issued since the last one authorized by Lord Dunmore on March 15, 1776. Jefferson's first warrant was issued on Oct. 23, 1779, to Evan Shelby for lands in Kentucky Co. The last signed by Jefferson is dated April 10, 1781. Between these dates about three thousand patents were issued.

On Oct 25, 1779, Washington wrote deprecating this action of the Assembly in a letter to Benjamin Harrison:—"I have no doubt but that the Assembly of Virginia, at its last session, had cogent reasons for opening the land office; but so far as it respects the army the measure is to be lamented; for I believe, from what I have heard, that it will be the means of breaking up the Virginia line. Ford's "Writings of George Washington," VIII, 97.

of money in circulation. every other remedy is nonsensical quackery. the house of delegates have passed a bill for removing the seat of government to Richmond.<sup>2</sup> it hesitates with the Senate. we have established a board of war and a board of trade. I hear from your quarter that Genl. Sullivan is marching with a large army against the Indians. if he succeeds it will be the first instance of a great army doing anything against Indians and his laurels will be greater. we have ever found that chosen corps of men fit for the service of the woods, going against them with rapidity, and by surprize, have been most successful. I believe that our Colo. Clarke if we could properly reinforce him would be more likely to succeed against those within his reach than Genl. Macintosh's regular method of proceeding. I shall hope to hear from you often. I put no name to this letter, because letters have miscarried, and if it goes safely you know the hand.<sup>3</sup>

To William Fleming.<sup>3a</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. THEODORICK BLAND.

(From "*Bland Papers*," I, 133.)

Williamsburg, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

Sir,—

Your letter to Governor Henry, of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, came to hand yesterday, and I immediately laid it before the council. It gave them pain to hesitate on any request from General Phillips, whose polite conduct has disposed them to every indulgence consistent with the duties of their appointment. The indiscriminate murder of men, women and children, with the [horrid] circumstances of barbarity practised by the Indian savages, was the particular task of Governor

<sup>2</sup>The *Virginia Gazette* of July 31, 1779, contained the announcement:

"Richmond, July 15, 1779.

The directors appointed by the General Assembly to provide temporary buildings for the two Houses of Assembly, the Courts of Justice, several publick Boards, and a publick jail; give notice that they will meet at Mr. *Hogg's* tavern, in the town of *Richmond*, the day after *Henrico* court, in next month, to agree with workmen for undertaking the said buildings. \* \* \*

<sup>3</sup>It will be noticed that in this letter the first words of the sentences, except where they are also the first words of paragraphs or are the pronoun "I", begin with small letters instead of capitals. This is in accordance with Jefferson's method of writing. The *Southern Literary Messenger*, from which the letter is taken, preserves Jefferson's peculiarity—a peculiarity shared by a few of Jefferson's contemporaries. The great majority of Jefferson's letters seen in print have been normalized by the various editors. In this book the style of the immediate source from which a letter is secured is retained. Hence, though the majority of the letters appear standardized in this respect, a few are printed as Jefferson wrote them.

This habit of Jefferson's has led to no little confusion in his printed letters. Jefferson has evidently suffered much at the hands of copyists. See, for example, his letter of Jan. 29, 1780, to Gen. George Rogers Clark, the text of which is given in this volume as it appears in Vol. VIII of the "*Illinois Historical Collections*," an unusually well edited book. Some portions of the letter require several readings before the meaning becomes clear.

<sup>3a</sup>William Fleming had been elected to Congress on Dec. 10, 1778, to succeed John Banister.

Hamilton's employment;<sup>4</sup> and if any thing should have aggravated the acceptance of such an office, and have made him personally answerable in a high degree, it was that eager spirit with which he is said to have executed it, and which, if the representations before the council are to be credited, seems to have shown that his own feelings and disposition were in unison with his employment. The truth of these representations will be the subject of their inquiry shortly, and the treatment of Governor Hamilton will be mild or otherwise, as his conduct shall appear to [merit, upon a more intimate] examination. We trust it must furnish a contemplation [highly] pleasing to the generous soldier, to [see]<sup>5</sup> honorable bravery respected, even by those against whom it happens to be enlisted, and discriminated from the cruel and cowardly warfare of the savage, whose object in war is to extinguish human nature.

By a letter dated May 27<sup>th</sup>, you were desired to discharge the militia under your command as soon as you judged it proper; lest that letter should have miscarried, I now enclose you a copy.

Colonel Finnie informs me he had written to you to apply for clothes at Winchester, for the use of your regiment of guards, and of the horse now with you. He yesterday showed me a letter from the continental board of war, giving the same directions; he says also that he had lately written to you on the subject of the articles desired for your particluar use, and that he is not yet enabled to procure them more fully.

As to putting the horse now with you on the same pay-roll with the regiment of guards, the council are of opinion that either your own powers are competent to it, or at least that it may be done in concert with the continental paymaster. The regiment of guards is recognized as continental; your horse are continental; the duty they are jointly engaged in is continental; they therefore wish that this matter should go into the continental line altogether, rather than be controlled by their interference, where it is not absolutely necessary. I am your most obedient, humble servant, &c.

*(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Wednesday, June 9.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, enclosing one from the President of Congress, with an address to the people on the subject of taxation; and the same being read,

*Ordered*, That the said address be published in the *Virginia Gazette*, and that the letters do lie on the table.

Friday, June 11.

*Resolved*, That the Governor and Council shall, and they are hereby empowered and required, to settle the accounts of the public

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<sup>4</sup>Hamilton's Address to the inhabitants of Illinois, translated by Charles Bellini, clerk of foreign correspondence, was published in the *Virginia Gazette*, June 26, 1779.

<sup>5</sup>Words enclosed in square brackets were inserted by Chas. Campbell, the editor of the "Bland Papers."



jailer, from the 20th day of December 1777, until the first day of January 1779, in the same manner as they are now by law authorised and required to do, from the said first day of January last.

Saturday, June 12.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly have a high sense of Col. Clarke's important services in the reduction of Fort St. Vincent's;<sup>6</sup> and that the Governor be requested to transmit to him, by the hands of Lieutenant Rogers, an elegant sword, in acknowledgement of the active and distinguished part he took in the expedition.

Thursday, June 17.

The Speaker laid before the House, a letter from the Governor, enclosing several papers and stating sundry matters for the consideration of the General Assembly.

[John Walker and Warner Lewis<sup>7</sup> were at this session of the assembly elected to the Privy Council in the room of Thomas Walker<sup>8</sup> and Benjamin Waller.]

GOV. JEFFERSON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE.

(*From Life and Correspondence of Richard Henry Lee (1825), II, 189.*)

Williamsburg, June 17, 1779.

*Dear Sir,*— I received your letter, and kind congratulations, for which I return you my thanks. In a virtuous government, and more especially in times like these, public offices are, what they should be, burthens to those appointed to them, which it would be wrong to decline, though foreseen to bring with them intense labour, and great private loss. I am, also, still to thank you for a former favour, enclosing a song and receipt. We have little new here. Colonel Clarke's expedition against St Vincents you know of; his prisoners are arrived at Chesterfield, and three of them brought to this place to be severely dealt with; the enclosed paper will explain that matter. We have 300 men, under Colonel Bowman,<sup>9</sup> in the Shawanee country, of whom we hope to receive good accounts: the destruction of the villages of the Cherokees, at Chuchamogga, and taking their goods, &c., has brought them to sue for peace; but the happiest stroke was the burning twenty-thousand bushels of corn, collected there for the use of the expeditions, which were to have been adopted at the great council.

<sup>6</sup>See Chapter XII of Bodley's "George Rogers Clark."

An extract from the letter of Col. Clark to the governor, dated April 29, 1779, was published in the *Virginia Gazette* of June 26, 1779.

<sup>7</sup>Warner Lewis resigned December 4, 1779.

<sup>8</sup>On June 11, 1779, Thomas Walker wrote to the speaker:

"Sir

Running the boundary line between the States of Virginia and N. Carolina must prevent my attending the Council, and as two members are by the Constitution to be balloted out of the Council, my being one of them will be very agreeable as it may keep one useful member in his place."

<sup>9</sup>For names of soldiers in Capt. Bowman's company see "Shenandoah Valley Pioneers," by T. R. Cartmell [Winchester, Va., 1909], p. 104.

Governor Hamilton had called at the mouth of the Tanissee, as mentioned in the within paper. It is a cruel thought, that, when we feel ourselves standing on the firmest ground, in every respect, the cursed arts of our secret enemies, combining with other causes, should effect by depreciating our money, what the open arms of a powerful enemy could not. What is to be done? Taxation is become of no account, for it is foreseen, that, notwithstanding its increased amount, there will still be a greater deficiency than ever. I own I see no assured hope, but in peace, or a plentiful loan of hard money.

I shall be obliged by your letters, when convenient to you to write. I never was a punctual correspondent to any person, as I must own to my shame; perhaps my present office will put it more out of my power; however, as it may sometimes furnish me with matter which may induce me to hope my letters may be worth sending, I may venture to say, you shall hear from me whenever I can get over the two-fold difficulty of many letters of absolute necessity to write, and an innate aversion to that kind of business.

I am, dear sir,

Your friend and servant

Thomas Jefferson

Richard Henry Lee,<sup>10</sup> Esquire,  
Westmoreland.

*(From Journal of Congress.)*

On Wed. June 30 was read a letter of Thomas Jefferson, dated 18, and sundry other papers relative to barracks proposed to be erected at Winchester.

*Ordered*, that the same be returned to the Board, and that they take order thereon. See "Journals of the Continental Congress," XIV, 786.

*(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Friday, June 18.

*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to direct the county lieutenant, or the commanding officer of the militia in every county of this Commonwealth, to make the strictest inquiry for all persons who may have so collusively or illegally procured such exemptions [from military duty], and to cause them again to be enrolled in the militia to which they respectively belong.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Speaker laid before the House, a letter from the Governor, and George Wythe, Esq. on the subject of the revision of the laws, enclosing a list of the revised laws, and referring to manuscript copies of them accompanying it; and the said letter was read, and together with the said list and copies, ordered to be referred to the consideration of the next session of Assembly.

<sup>10</sup>For reply see Ballagh's "Letters of Richard Henry Lee," Vol. II, 82.

(From "Memoir, Correspondence and Miscellanies from the Papers of Thomas Jefferson," edited by Thomas Jefferson Randolph, 1, 455.)

In Council, June 18, 1779.

The board proceeded to the consideration of the letters of Colonel Clarke, and other papers relating to Henry Hamilton, Esq.<sup>11</sup> who has acted for some years past, as Lieutenant Governor of the settlement at and about Detroit, and commandant of the British garrison there, under Sir Guy Carleton, as Governor in chief; Philip Dejean, justice of the peace for Detroit, and William Lamothe, captain of volunteers, prisoners of war, taken in the county of Illinois.

They find, that Governor Hamilton has executed the task of inciting the Indians to perpetrate their accustomed cruelties on the citizens of the United States, without distinction of age, sex, or condition, with an eagerness and avidity which evince, that the general nature of his charge harmonised with his particular disposition. They should have been satisfied, from the other testimony adduced that these enormities were committed by savages acting under his commission, but the number of proclamations, which, at different times, were left in houses, the inhabitants of which were killed or carried away by the Indians, one of which proclamations is in possession of the board, under the hand and seal of Governor Hamilton, puts this fact beyond a doubt. At the time of his captivity, it appears, he had sent considerable bodies of Indians against the frontier settlements of these States, and had actually appointed a great council of Indians, to meet him at Tennessee, to concert the operations of this present campaign. They find that his treatment of our citizens and soldiers, taken and carried within the limits of his command, has been cruel and inhuman; that in the case of John Dodge, a citizen of these States, which has been particularly stated to this board, he loaded him with irons, threw him into a dungeon, without bedding, without straw, without fire, in the dead of winter and severe climate of Detroit; that, in that state, he wasted him with incessant expectations of death: that when the rigours of his situation had brought him so low, that death seemed likely to withdraw him from their power, he was taken out and somewhat attended to, until a little mended, and before he had recovered ability to walk, was again returned to his dungeon, in which a hole was cut, seven inches square only, for the admission of air, and the same load of irons again put on him: that appearing, a second time in imminent danger of being lost to them, he was again taken from his dungeon, in which he had lain from January till June, with the intermission of a few weeks only, before mentioned. That Governor Hamilton gave standing rewards for scalps, but offered none for prisoners, which induced the Indians, after making their captives carry their baggage into the neighborhood of the fort, there put them to death, and carry in their scalps to the Governor, who welcomed their return and success by a discharge of cannon. That when a prisoner, brought

<sup>11</sup>"Last Wednesday evening were brought to this city under a guard, Henry Hamilton Esq;" etc.—*Virginia Gazette*, June 19, 1779.

alive, and destined to death by the Indians, the fire already kindled, and himself bound to the stake, was dexterously withdrawn, and secreted from them by the humanity of a fellow prisoner, a large reward was offered for the discovery of the victim, which having tempted a servant to betray his concealment, the present prisoner Dejean, being sent with a party of soldiers, surrounded the house, took and threw into jail the unhappy victim and his deliverer, where the former soon expired under the perpetual assurances of Dejean, that he was to be again restored into the hands of the savages, and the latter when enlarged, was bitterly reprimanded by Governor Hamilton.

It appears to them, that the prisoner Dejean was on all occasions, the willing and cordial instrument of Governor Hamilton, acting both as judge and keeper of the jails, and instigating and urging him by malicious insinuations and untruths, to increase, rather than relax his severities, heightening the cruelty of his orders by his manner of executing them, offering at one time a reward to one man to be hangman for another, threatening his life on refusal, and taking from his prisoners the little property their opportunities enabled them to acquire.

It appears, that the prisoner Lamothe, was a captain of the volunteer scalping parties of Indians and whites, who went, from time to time, under general orders to spare neither men, women, nor children. From this detail of circumstances, which arose in a few cases only, coming accidentally to the knowledge of the board, they think themselves authorised by fair deductions to presume what would be the horrid story of the sufferings of the many, who have expired under their miseries, (which, therefore, will remain forever untold) or, who have escaped from them, and are yet too remote and too much dispersed, to bring together their well founded accusations against the prisoners.

They have seen that the conduct of the British officers, civil and military, has in the whole course of this war, been savage, and unprecedented among civilized nations; that our officers taken by them, have been confined in crowded jails, loathsome dungeons and prison ships, loaded with irons, supplied often with no food, generally with too little for the sustenance of nature, and that little sometimes unsound and unwholesome whereby such numbers have perished, that captivity and death have with them been almost synonymous; that they have been transported beyond seas, where their fate is out of the reach of our inquiry, have been compelled to take arms against their country, and by a refinement in cruelty, to become murderers of their own brethren.

Their prisoners with us have, on the other hand, been treated with humanity and moderation; they have been fed, on all occasions, with wholesome and plentiful food, suffered to go at large within extensive tracts of country, treated with liberal hospitality, permitted to live in the families of our citizens, to labor for themselves to acquire and enjoy profits, and finally to participate of the principal benefits of society, privileged from all burdens.

Reviewing this contrast, which cannot be denied by our enemies themselves, in a single point, and which has now been kept up during



four years of unremitting war, a term long enough to produce well founded despair that our moderation may ever lead them to the practice of humanity; called on by that justice we owe to those who are fighting the battles of our country, to deal out, at length miseries to their enemies, measure for measure, and to distress the feelings of mankind by exhibiting to them spectacles of severe retaliation, where we had long and vainly endeavored to introduce an emulation in kindness; happily possessed, by the fortune of war, of some of those very individuals who, having distinguished themselves personally in this line of cruel conduct, are fit subjects to begin on, with the work of retaliation; this board has resolved to advise the Governor, that the said Henry Hamilton, Philip Dejean and William Lamothe, prisoners of war, be put into irons, confined in the dungeon of the public jail, debarred the use of pen, ink and paper, and excluded all converse, except with their keeper. And the Governor orders accordingly.

Arch: Blair, C. C.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO ———.

(*From Continental Congress Papers (ms. Papers in Library of Congress)*  
147, v. III, 487-489.)

Williamsburgh June 18. 1779

Sir,

Inclosed you will receive the information you formerly desired on the subject of the barracks ordered to be built at Frederick—some difference will appear between the report of some gentlemen formerly appointed for that purpose & Colo Smith's <sup>11a</sup> letter; which difference however may be accounted for by their different dates. it is with concern we find that the continent is likely to lose by the inconsiderate omission of Colo Kennedy to take security from the undertaker <sup>12</sup>. upon thorough enquiry into the best measures which may now be pursued, & from gentlemen in whom we confide, we would take the liberty of recommending that mr Hobday the undertaker be immediately prosecuted for not complying with his contract; that the whole management be put into the hands of gentlemen near the place who may be relied on to have the work executed on the best terms possible, for we must observe for a very obvious reason that no one will undertake it for a fixed sum, and that you send a proper plan for the barracks, as we learn that egregious blunders in this way would have been committed had the former contract been complied with. our only object in having Hobday sued is that an execution may be levied on the timber brought into place which seems to be all the property he has, & will be of worth in the execution of the work; and lest any delay should put it in his power to withdraw this we have recommended to your deputy paymaster here to authorise a suit against him imme-

<sup>11a</sup>Col. John Smith, county lieutenant of Frederick, had succeeded the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Fairfax, who had refused allegiance to the Revolutionary government.

<sup>12</sup>In the old sense of "contractor."

diately without awaiting your orders, which suit by our laws will be determined at the first court of the county after the expiration of ten days from the service of the writ. we recommend Colo John Smith & Isaac Zane as proper persons for your full confidence in engaging this work on the best terms. from a knowledge of the country in which this building is to be erected we would advise you strongly to build of stone rather than wood. it will cost as little, perhaps less, in the outset as we are assured on good testimony. the stone is not half a mile distant, the spot itself abounding with limestone, the timber prepared fit for cutting into joists, boards &c and whenever the determination of the war shall render the building useless for barracks, it will reimburse you in some degree by sale, rent or otherwise. this is submitted altogether to your consideration. you formerly expressed a wish that the executive of this state should ease you of this troublesome business. they then declined it, in hopes that the channel into which you had put it would have had the work effected without trouble to you or them. seeing now the unlucky turn it has taken & sensible that the common cause will be aided by the assistance of the executive in every state, where a business is become intricate & involved so as to require more of the time of the general council than ought to be so employed, they are willing to take up this matter and have the old contract settled as well as they can & the work carried into execution for you, if you think your distance or other occupations may prevent your being able to take better care of it. in this they will await your orders, & if you confide it to them, expect you shall be particular in your directions as to the plan, of what materials it shall be built & other circumstances of weight.

Among the prisoners taken at Detroit by Colo Clarke, were some whose conduct seemed to call for severe treatment. I do myself the honour to inclose you a copy of our resolution on that subject, containing the reasons for our severity.

I have the honour to be Sir  
Your most obedient  
& most humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON

JEFFERSON TO COL. THEODORICK BLAND.

(From "*The Bland Papers*," 1, 138, 139.)

Williamsburg, June 18th, 1779.

Sir,

Yours of the 14th inst., came to hand this day . . . with respect to Col. Finnie, as a continental officer, [we decline med]dling with his conduct; being yourself in the continental service, [we] take it for granted, that if he fails in his duty you will [put] him under a proper train of enquiry. his assurances to us are fair; one thing only I am to inform you, that however true it may be that he is without money, it is no just excuse for failing to do any thing for the public service, because that was never permitted by the executive here, to be on sufferance for want of money. he never applied in vain, and

we still are, as we ever have been, ready to lend him (as a continental officer) any monies, which the due discharge of his office may call [for,] . . . . . and politeness at the [least] hardly permits them to suppose the duties of the [post can be as] well discharged by any other, as by yourself. but your health for that very reason is the more to be taken care of. you will please permit Capt. Bertling and Lieutenant Campbell to pass by land to the lower ferry of the Chickahominy, [where the Flag] lies, and finally settle the business, on which she came, according [to the rules] usual in their service. I inclose you the reasons, which have induced the council to [act] with such rigor with Governor Hamilton and the others there. it is impossible for any generous man to disapprove his sentence. I am, sir, with much [respect,] your most obedient and most humble servant, &c.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 240.)

Williamsburg, June 19th, <sup>13</sup> 1779.

Sir,—I have the pleasure to enclose you the particulars of Colo. Clarke's success against St. Vincenne as stated in his letter but lately received, the messenger with his first letter having been killed. I fear it will be impossible for Colo. Clarke to be so strengthened as to enable him to do what he desires. Indeed the express who brought this letter, gives us reason to fear St. Vincenne is in danger from a large body of Indians collected to attack it and said when he came from Kaskaskias to be within 30 leagues of the place. I also enclose you a letter from Colo. Shelby stating the effect of his success against the seceding Cherokees and Chuccamogga. The damage done them was killing half a dozen, burning 11 Towns, 20,000 bushels of Corn collected probably to forward the expeditions which were to have been planned at the Council which was to meet Governor Hamilton at the mouth of Tennessee, and taking as many goods as sold for £25,000. I hope these two blows coming together and the depriving them of their head will in some measure effect the quiet of our frontiers this summer. We have intelligence also that Colo. Bowman from Kentucky is in the midst of the Shawnee county [country] with 300 men & hope to hear a good account of him. The enclosed order being in its nature important and generally interesting, I think it proper to transmit it to you with the reasons supporting it. It will add much to our satisfaction to know it meets your approbation.

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of private respect & public gratitude, Sir, your most obedient & most hbl. servant.

P. S. The distance of our northern and western counties from the scene of Southern service and the necessity of strengthening our Western quarter have induced the Council to direct the new levies from the Counties of Yohogania, Ohio, Monongalia, Frederick, Hamp-

<sup>13</sup>This letter, as given in "*The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*" (1853), is dated June 23. Clark's letter is adjoined. I, 222-223.

A long extract from Clark's letter, dated "Kaskaskia (Illinois), April 29, 1779" is published in the *Virginia Gazette*, June 8, 1779.

shire, Berkley, Rockingham and Greenbrier, amounting to somewhat less than 300 men to enter into the 9th Regiment at Pittsburg. The aid they may give there will be so immediate & important and what they could do to the Southward would be so late as I hope will apologise for their interference.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO JOHN JAY, PRESIDENT OF  
CONGRESS.<sup>14</sup>

(From Papers of the Continental Congress, 71, v. I, 241.)

Williamsburg, June 19, 1779.

Sir,

Our delegates by the last post informed us that we might now obtain blank letters of marque for want of which our people have long & exceedingly suffered. I have taken the liberty therefore of desiring them to apply for fifty, & transmit them by a safe conveyance.

The inclosed order being in it's nature important and generally interesting, I thought it my duty to lay it before Congress as early as possible, with the reasons supporting it; nothing doubting but it will meet with their approbation; it's justice seems to have been confirmed by the general sense of the people here.

Before the receipt of your letter desiring a state to be made out of the ravages & enormities, unjustifiable by the usage of civilized nations, committed by the enemy on their late invasion near Portsmouth,<sup>15</sup> I had taken measures for the same purpose meaning to transmit them to you. they are not yet returned to me. I have given the

<sup>14</sup>Read in Congress on June 28. See Journal.

Under July 8 the following is found in the Journal:

The Committee upon Govr. Jefferson's letter of the 9th June

Report as follows:

*Resolved*, That Congress have a high sense of the military and enterprising Spirit of Colonel Clarke, of the State of Virginia, and under the particular appointment of that State. That Congress contemplate with great pleasure the success of Colonel Clarke in the hazardous but necessary and well executed attack against the Post of St. Vincenne, the Capture of General Hamilton, and the Garrison under his Command.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of Congress be communicated by the President to Colonel Clarke, and the brave Officers and Soldiers under his Command, for their arduous bravery and intrepidity upon that striking and interesting occasion.

The said Committee Report also the following Resolution:

*Resolved*, That Congress have a high sense of the services of Colonel Shelby, of the State of Virginia, and under the particular appointment of that State, against the Cherokees of Chicamagga highly interesting to the Peace and Happiness of the Frontiers of the United States.

<sup>15</sup>A dispatch from New York, June 2, published in the *Virginia Gazette* of July 16, states:

"Last Saturday afternoon the detachment of the British forces under the command of Major General Mathews and Sir George Collier, arrived here from Chesapeake Bay, in four days, in good health, having lost only one man since they left this place. Thirty seven sail of prizes have been brought in with the fleet, loaded with near 2000 hogsheads of tobacco, and several sorts of goods, besides 70 sail more of vessels were sunk, burned, and destroyed. Near 1000 of the inhabitants of Virginia have come off, among them many very useful tradesmen, such as ship carpenters &c."



same orders with respect to their still later proceedings in the county of Northumberland.

Our trade has never been so distressed since the time of Lord Dunmore as it is at present by a parcel of trifling privateers<sup>16</sup> under the countenance of two or three larger vessels who keep our little naval force from doing anything. The uniform train of events which during the whole course of this war we are to suppose has rendered it improper that the American fleet or any part of it should ever come to relieve or countenance the trade of certain places, while the same train of events has as uniformly rendered it proper to confine them to the protection of certain other parts of the continent is a lamentable arrangement of fortune for us. the same ill luck has attended us as to the disposition of the prizes taken by our navy, which tho' sometimes taken just off our capes, it has always been expedient to carry elsewhere. a British prize would be a more rare phenomenon here than a comet, because the one has been seen, but the other never was.

(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)

Saturday, June 19, 1779.

*Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee,* That the Governor be desired immediately to make an offer to the State of North Carolina of the Washington and Caswell galleys now in that State, at a fair valuation; and that if the said offer should not be accepted, that he order them to be dismantled, and the materials, guns, ammunition, &c. brought over to this State for the use of the navy, and the hulls to be disposed of for the best price that can be had.

\* \* \*

*Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee,* That the Governor and Council be desired to furnish the soldiers who served as volunteers, or were draughted from the militia for the continental army under the law passed in 1777, and who performed the service required of them by the said law, or the representatives of such as have died since, with such clothing as they have not received, and were promised by law, that is to say, a coat, waistcoat, pair of breeches, two shirts, a hat, two pair of stockings, and two pair of shoes; but if such soldiers, or their representatives, as aforesaid, are willing to accept money in lieu thereof, then to pay them at the following rates, for a coat 23 l. 10s., a waistcoat 10 l. 15s., a pair of breeches 9 l. 5s., a shirt 9 l. 8s., a hat 5 l., a pair of stockings 1 l. 10s. and a pair of shoes 5 l.

<sup>16</sup>In letter of June 26, Richard Henry Lee had written to General [William Whipple?]: " \* \* \* The Confederacy & the Boston can with infinite ease destroy the enemies vessels that are doing us so much injury, causing us so much expence by frequent calls for Militia—They have already burnt several private houses and one public warehouse with between 2 & 300 hhds of Tobo. and carried off much plunder & many negroes—Soon as they see the Militia gathering they embark and go to an unguarded place. They have 6 vessels, Otter 16, Harlem 12 Guns Kings Vessels—Dunmore 16, Schooner Hammond 14, Lord North 12 Guns & Fin Castle 2 three pounders. The 4 last are Guntridges [Goodrich's] Pirates \* \* \* " Ballagh's "Letters," Vol. II, 81.

*Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee,* That the Governor and Council be desired to take off the embargo by them laid on the exportation of provisions from this State, so far as to permit 1,000 bushels of Indian corn or flour equal thereto, to be exported to the island of Bermudas,<sup>17</sup> agreeable to a recommendation of the General Congress.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. CASWELL, OF  
NORTH CAROLINA.

(From "*State Records of North Carolina*," XIV, 126.)

Williamsburg, June 22d, 1779.

Sir:

The Washington and Caswell Gallies belonging to this Commonwealth, originally built for the protection of Ocracock Inlet, in conjunction with others proposed to be built by your State, being so much out of repair as to render it necessary to incur a considerable expense to refit them for service, their condition and future station were submitted to the consideration of our General Assembly. Our trade through that Inlet to and from South Quay has, from experience, been found inconvenient, and, therefore, of itself has got mostly into a different channel, so that the little remaining there from this State will not justify the expense of keeping those Gallies any longer at their present station. We are uninformed whether you were diverted from your purpose of building the additional Gallies to act in conjunction with ours by a similar want of importance in the trade, or of necessities to build Gallies. If the latter, and you think the Washington and Caswell may be made to answer your purpose, we are authorized by the General Assembly to offer them to you at such fair estimation as may be agreed on between us, I apprehend without difficulty. I shall be obliged by your answer to this as early as convenient, as we are directed, if you should not want them, to dispose of them otherwise for the service of this State.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's Mo. ob. & Mo. hum'l Servt.,

TH. JEFFERSON.

Gov. Caswell.

(From *Journal of the House of Delegates*.)

Saturday, June 26, 1779.

*Resolved,* That the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be empowered to appoint some proper person to adjust and settle the accounts now subsisting between the United States and this Commonwealth; who shall have free access to the different public offices for collecting the necessary papers and evidence, and full powers on behalf of the Commonwealth, for finally settling the said accounts in

<sup>17</sup>At the preceding session of the Assembly St. George Tucker had sent in a petition in behalf of the Bermudans, who, he averred, had been sympathetic with the revolting colonists from the beginning of the struggle with the mother country.

the city of Philadelphia, and to confer with the Virginia delegates in Congress thereon, to whom he is hereby recommended for their advice and assistance; and for his trouble and expenses therein, that he be allowed commissions, at the rate of two per centum, on whatsoever sum shall be due upon the settlement of the said accounts from the United States to this Commonwealth.

\* \* \*

*Resolved*, That the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be required immediately to banish from this Commonwealth all Tory Refugees, as described by the act entitled "an act concerning escheats and forfeitures from British subjects, who are now resident within this State;" and that he also take proper measures to prevent the return to this Commonwealth of any person who may come within the description of the said act.

(*From the Virginia Gazette, July 3, 1779.*)

In COUNCIL, Williamsburg, June 29, 1779.

The commissioners of the tax for the several counties within this commonwealth, are appointed by the Governour, with the advice of the Council, for the purpose of inquiring into, and securing all the slaves and other movable property of all such persons as already have departed, or hereafter may depart and join the enemy, agreeable to the act of Assembly entitled "An Act to secure the moveable property of those who have joined, or hereafter may join the enemy.

*Attest.*

ARCHIBALD BLAIR, c. c.

NOTICE is hereby given, that his Excellency the Governour, with the advice of the Council, will proceed on *Thursday* the 22d of next month, to appoint the field and other officers for the four battalions of infantry, directed by law to be raised for the defence of this commonwealth.

A. BLAIR c. c.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. CASWELL, OF  
NORTH CAROLINA.

(*From "State Records of North Carolina," XIV, 136.*)

Williamsburg, June 30th, 1779.

*Sir:*

Since writing the within, I learn that the Caswell Galley is sunk at her Station, that her bottom is eaten out, and her original Form such that she could not be hove down to be refitted. The within proposition, therefore, your Excellency will be pleased to understand as confined to the Washington only.

By direction of the Assembly of this State, I do myself the honor of enclosing their resolution containing a proposition for quieting the menaces and possessions of those settlers near our unextended boundary as may have unwarily entered in the one State for lands lying in the other. I hope it will be recommended to your patronage, as well

by its justice as its tendency to promote that friendly harmony so necessary for our general good, and so agreeable to the dispositions of the Citizens of our particular States towards each other. The within letters to the Speakers of the two Houses of your Assembly contain Copies of the same resolution, which I take the liberty of transmitting through your hands to them.

I am, Sir, with the greatest esteem and respect,  
Your mo. ob. Serv't.,

TH. JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. JOHNSON, OF MARYLAND

(*From Maryland Historical Magazine, V, 180.*)

Williamsburgh, June 30, 1779.

Sir,

I beg you will be pleased to ascribe to the change in administration and to my not becoming immediately possessed of all the business which lay before the executive, your letter of the 7th of the last month remaining so long unanswered. It has happened very unluckily that this was among the latest of the several matters which have come to my hand.

I am to return you thanks for your obliging offer of a preference in the purchase of two of your gallies,<sup>18</sup> but it happens that we cannot become purchasers, having already full as many as we can either man or maintain. We think the defence of our bay an object so important that we would spare nothing to effect it within the compass of our abilities. We trust that the same opinion prevails with you, so great a part of your state lying adjacent to the bay and its waters; and of course that strong motives of expediency must have induced you to propose to lessen your force there. The late depredations on our coast and captures in the bay have put us on the greatest exertions we can make to put our little fleet into order for action. The force however must be small to which that is competent.

I have the honour to be with great respect  
your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servt  
TH: JEFFERSON.

His Excellency  
Governor Johnson  
of Maryland.

(*From the Williamsburg Gazette, July 3, 1779.*)

By his Excellency THOMAS JEFFERSON Esq; Governor or Chief Magistrate of the commonwealth of Virginia.

#### A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the General Assembly by their act passed at their last session entitled *An act concerning escheats and forfeitures from British*

<sup>18</sup>These galleys were offered to Virginia in a letter from the Council of Maryland to Governor Henry, Feb. 14, 1778.—“*Maryland Archives*,” XVI, 498.



*subjects*, did declare that "(1) all persons, subject of his Britannick Majesty, who on the 19th day of April, in the year 1775, when hostilities were commenced at Lexington between the United States of America and the other parts of the British Empire, were resident, or following their vocations, in any part of the world other than the said United States, and have not since either entered into publick employment of the said states or joined the same, and by overt act adhered to them; and (2) all such subjects, inhabitants of any of the said United States as were out of the said states on the same day, and have since by overt act adhered to the enemies of the said states; and (3) all inhabitants of the said states who after the same day and before the commencement of the act of General Assembly entitled "An act declaring what shall be treason", departed from the said states, and joined the subjects of his Britannick Majesty of their own free will; or (4) who by any county court within this commonwealth were declared to be British subjects within the meaning and operation of the resolution of the General Assembly of the 19th day of December 1776, for enforcing the statute staple, should be deemed British subjects;" and by their resolution of the 26th day of the last month, they "required that all the persons so described, and now resident within this commonwealth, should be banished from the same, and that proper measures should be taken to prevent their return, as also to exclude thereout all others so described, and now resident within this commonwealth;" I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council of State, to issue this my proclamation, hereby strictly charging and commanding all persons coming under any one of the descriptions in the said act, and now being within this commonwealth, to be and appear before me in Council, at Williamsburg, on or before the 17th day of August in this present year, in readiness to depart the commonwealth in such manner as shall then be prescribed to them, as they will answer the contrary at their utmost peril: And I do moreover charge and enjoin all officers, civil and military, and all other the good citizens of this commonwealth, to apprehend and carry securely to the commanding officer of the militia of some county within this commonwealth all such persons, whom after the said day they shall find lurking or being therein; and the commanding officers of the several counties are in like manner charged and required to receive the said persons, and all others so described, whom by the strictest diligence they shall be able to discover and take, to convey them in safe custody to the publick jail in the city of Williamsburg, and to make report of such their proceedings to me. And I do farther prohibit all persons so described from entering into this commonwealth during the continuance of the present war with their Prince, under colour of any commission, passport, licence, or other pretence whatsoever; and do publish and make known to such of them as shall presume to violate this prohibition, that they shall be deemed and dealt with as spies wheresoever they be taken. Given at Williamsburg, on the first day of July, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Nine.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. RIEDESEL.<sup>19</sup>*(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 245.)*

Forrest, July 4, 1779.

Sir,

Your kind letter of June 19 I received on the 2nd inst. It is now some time since Colo. Bland wrote for leave to grant Permits to capt. Bartling & Lt. Campbell to come to the Argyle flag. Leave was immediately given by letter to Col. Bland. Sometime after I received another letter from him, accompanied with one from General Phillips informing me that Lt. Campbell was come as far as Richmond, & waited for a permit to proceed. A permit was instantly made out and dispatched. Capt. Bartling was not mentioned on that occasion & therefore no permit was made out for him. The 3d inst. was fixed for Lt. Campbell to be at the flag to do his business, and it was only on the day before that your letter came to me by post. I shall instantly write to capt. Bartling giving him license to proceed, if his business remains still to be done, by a conveyance which occurs tomorrow. I thought it necessary to give you this detail of circumstances that any delays which may happen might be ascribed to those accidents which may have caused them.

I thank you for your kind congratulations; tho' condolences would be better suited to the occasion not only on account of the labours of the office to which I am called, and its withdrawing me from retirement, but also the loss of the agreeable society I have left of which Mad'me de Riedesel and yourself were an important part. Mrs. Jefferson in this particular sympathizes with me, and especially on her separation from Mad'me de Riedesel. We are told you set out for the Berkely springs<sup>20</sup> about the middle of month. We fear that this excursion, necessary for your amusement to diversify the scenes of discomfort, may deprive us of the pleasure of seeing you when we come to Monticello the last of this month. We shall stay there about a month. Mrs. Jefferson joins me in compliments to yourself & Mad'me de Riedesel, I shall be able to execute her commission as to the spoons and bring them up with me.

To General Baron de Riedesel

*(From a Fragment in the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

\* \* \* \* letter from A. Lee for Gov. Henry. Paris Dec. 14. 1778.

I inclose the account of the paper which the Treasurer wrote for  
 \* \* \* strike the paper bills on which you will have the goodness  
 to \* \* \* \* him.

The inclosed paper & the above mentioned came by \* \* \* Gen<sup>l</sup>  
 Washington. we have hopes that the paper (which we \* \* \* \* sup-

<sup>19</sup>The German troops had reached Virginia on New Year's Eve, 1778, and arrived at Charlottesville on January 14.

<sup>20</sup>See "Memoirs of General Riedesel", II, 70. The springs are there referred to as "Frederick's spring."

Gen. Riedesel was living at "Colle", the former home of Mazzei.

pose to be laded with some military stores) will come to hand. I am  
Sir

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>

TH: JEFFERSON.

July 15. 1779.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.<sup>21</sup>

(From "*Memoir, Correspondence, and Miscellanies from the  
Papers of Thomas Jefferson*", edited by Thomas Jefferson  
Randolph, I, 164.)

Wmsburg, July 17, 1779.

Sir,—

I some time ago, inclosed to you a printed copy of an order of Council, by which Governor Hamilton was to be confined in irons, in close jail, which has occasioned a letter from General Phillips, of which the inclosed is a copy.<sup>22</sup> The General seems to think that a prisoner on capitulation, cannot be put in close confinement, though his capitulation should not have provided against it. My idea was, that all persons taken in war, were to be deemed prisoners of war. That those who surrender on capitulation (or convention) are prisoners of war also, subject to the same treatment with those who surrender at discretion, except only so far as the terms of their capitulation or convention shall have guarded them. In the capitulation of Governor Hamilton (a copy of which I inclose), no stipulation is made as to the treatment of himself, or those taken with him. The Governor, indeed, when he signs, adds a flourish of reasons inducing him to capitulate, one of which is the generosity of his enemy. Generosity, on a large and comprehensive scale, seems to dictate the making a signal example of this gentleman; but waving that, these are only the private motives inducing him to surrender, and do not enter into the contract of Colonel Clarke. I have the highest idea of those contracts which take place between nation and nation, at war, and would be the last on earth to do anything in violation of them. I can find nothing in those books usually resorted to as testimonials of the laws and usages of nature and nations, which convicts the opinions I have above expressed of error. Yet there may be such an usage as General Phillips seems to suppose, though not taken notice of by these writers. I am obliged to trouble your Excellency on this occasion, by asking of you information on this point. There is no other person, whose decision will so authoritatively decide this doubt in the public mind, and none with which I am disposed so implicitly to comply. If you shall be of opinion, that the bare existence of a capitulation, in the case of Governor Hamilton, privileges him from confinement, though there be no article to that effect in the capitulation, justice shall most assuredly be done him. The

<sup>21</sup>For Washington's answer, see Ford's "Writings of George Washington," VIII, 4.

<sup>22</sup>For the action of Congress on Gen. Phillips's request see "Journals," XIV, 985.—(Aug. 21).

importance of this point, in a public view, and my own anxiety under a charge of violation of national faith by the Executive of this Commonwealth, will, I hope, apologise for my adding this to the many troubles with which I know you to be burdened. I have the honor to be with the most profound respect,

Yr Excellency's most obedt, & most humble Servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON

P. S. I have just received a letter from Colonel Bland, containing information of numerous desertions from the Convention troops, not less than four hundred in the last fortnight.<sup>23</sup> He thinks he has reason to believe, it is with the connivance of some of their officers. Some of these have been retaken, all of them going northwardly. They had provided themselves with forged passports, and with certificates of having taken the oath of fidelity to the State; some of them forged, others really given by weak magistrates. I give this information to your Excellency, as, perhaps, it may be in your power to have such of them intercepted as shall be passing through Pennsylvania and Jersey.

Your letter inclosing the opinion of the board of war in the case of Allison and Lee has come safe to hand, after a long passage. It shall be answered by next post.

T. J.

<sup>23</sup>(From the *Virginia Gazette*, September 11, 1779.)

War Office (Philadelphia) July 26, 1779.

WHEREAS the Board have received information from Col. Bland, commanding at the convention barracks, near *Charlottesville* in *Virginia*, that considerable desertions have taken place among the troops of the convention, many of whom leave the post with an intention to rejoin the enemy; all officers in the service of the United States are therefore directed to be vigilant in detecting and apprehending deserters from those troops. The civil officers in the respective states where such deserters may be found, are earnestly requested to give their assistance in securing them; and the well affected inhabitants will do essential service to their country, by taking into custody all *British* deserters travelling from the southward, and delivering them to the next Commissary of prisoners, or committing them to the nearest jail. A practice of administering the state oath of allegiance to deserters from the convention troops, and then supplying them with passes, has heretofore been too prevalent, and productive of very pernicious consequences, by affording them a safe and easy method of escaping to places in the possession of the *British* army. Those magistrates and other officers of justice, who have been induced to receive such oaths, and grant passes in consequence thereof, are earnestly called upon to discontinue a practice so injurious to the states: And as those passes have been obtained merely with a design to facilitate their escape to the enemy, the soldiers possessed of them are notwithstanding to be secured, and treated as deserters. They are generally clad in short coarse linen coats or coatees, and linen overalls; and carry their regimental coats in knapsacks. The troops under the convention of *Saratoga* consist of the 9th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 47th, and 62d regiments, a detachment of the 33d regiment, Lord *Balcarriss's* corps, and the royal artillery *British*; and of the *Brunswick* dragoons, regiments of *Reidesel*, *Barner*, *Rhetz*, *Specht*, *Hesse Hanau*, *Hessian* artillery and battalion of grenadiers, *German*. The regiments and corps are particularized, as the numbers and devices on the buttons of many of their uniforms may tend to discover the desertion of the owners.

By Order of the Board

P. SCULL,  
Secretary.



[In the postscript, dated Aug. 10, of Gen. Washington's letter to Jefferson, dated Aug. 6, 1779, he states:- "I have received your Excellency's Letter of the 19th of July with the Blank Commissions which I will use as the Council requests.]

*(From Minutes of Navy Board, Manuscript in the Virginia State Library.)*

Thursday the 22nd day of July 1779

Present: James Innes  
Samuel Griffin and James Barron  
Esquires.

The following was received from his excellency the governour, in answer to the recommendation of this board to dismantle and sell several gallies and the ship Gloster. In council July 22nd 1779. approved as to the gallies; and as to the ship Gloster it is recommended to the board of war to have a proper enquiry and report made whether it may not be more advantageous to convert her into a galley than to sell her and on such report to reconsider the matter.

TH: JEFFERSON.

*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

Articles of agreement entered into and concluded on the 22<sup>d</sup>. day of July in the year of our Lord 1779 between the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia with advice of the Council of State on behalf of the said Commonwealth on the one part, and Mess<sup>rs</sup> Peter Penett Windel & C<sup>o</sup> of the Kingdom of France on the other part.<sup>24</sup>

1<sup>st</sup>. The said Peter Penett Windel & C<sup>o</sup>. covenant and agree that they will establish at their own expense a Manufactory of Arms and Foundry of Cannon at such place on James river as they shall think suitable. They will provide the same with all Articles & Workmen; that they will support and carry on the said Manufactory and Foundry for ever and to such extent as that they shall at all times and so often as they shall be called on after the first nine years hereafter more particularly mentioned be able from the manufactory particularly to furnish ten thousand stand of arms complete and well made within one year after the same shall have been called for by the Governor and Council for the time being. And the Governor and Council oblige themselves to purchase from the said Company the said number of ten thousand stand of arms annually or such smaller number as they shall have occasion for. And it is furthermore agreed that after the arms stipulated for in the 3<sup>d</sup>. & 8<sup>th</sup>. Articles shall have been furnished at the prices fixed in the 13<sup>th</sup>. Article, all others to be made for the State in compliance with the present Article shall be furnished at a reasonable price.

<sup>24</sup>Nothing came of this plan. See letter of M. P. Penet to the governor and Council of Virginia, May 20, 1780.—"Calendar of State Papers," I, 352 *et seq.*

2<sup>d</sup>. The said Peter Penet Windel & co. will begin to erect the buildings and other Works necessary for the said Manufactory and Foundry as soon as the place shall have been fixed on and provided for them.

3<sup>d</sup>. They covenant and agree to make at the said Manufactory and Foundry and deliver to the Governor or order six thousand complete stand of arms, each stand to consist of a Musket, bayonet & scabbard, two hundred & fifty Carbines, two hundred & fifty swords within two years after the said place shall have been fixed on & provided for them, and the like number every year after for seven succeeding years, making in the whole forty eight thousand stand of arms, two thousand Carbines, two thousand pair of Pistols, & two thousand swords, reserving to themselves nevertheless a power of delivering the whole quantity beforementioned within such shorter time as they shall think proper. They will also make at the said Foundry such and so many Ordnance as shall hereafter be agreed on. The Patterns for the Muskets, Bayonets and Carbines shall be either the French model of 1760, or such as are now used in the British army at the election of the Governor & Council to be declared at any time when such declaration shall be called for by the Company such call not to be sooner than six months after the date of these Presents. The Pattern of the pistol shall be the french model of 1772 or such as are now in use in the British Cavalry at the like election of the Governor and Council, to be declared as before provided in the Case of the Muskets. The Swords shall be such as are used in the French Cavalry, and shall be mounted with brass. There shall be duplicates of these patterns provided by the Governor and Council one of each to be deposited with the Company, the other to be kept by themselves.

4<sup>th</sup>. The said Ordinance and fire arms shall be proved in presence of some persons to be appointed by the Governor and Council, with a double charge of powder and ball three times repeated, the 1<sup>st</sup> proof to be at the expence of the Company the 2<sup>d</sup>. & 3<sup>d</sup>. proofs at the expence of the State. The Governor shall not be obliged to take any arms which fail under either of these proofs. The person so to be appointed shall attend to the Manufactory & Foundry at stated times, to see the arms proved, and give Certificates to the Company.

5<sup>th</sup>. The Governor shall receive the said arms at the Manufactory & Foundry.

6<sup>th</sup>. The Governor & Council shall have right once on every two years to direct any alteration in the form or materials of the said arms which they shall think proper, they taking such arms as shall be on hand, finished, at the time of the alteration directed, and paying such additional price for those to be afterwards made as shall be agreed on if the alteration should enhance the cost of the workmanship or materials. Such agreement to be made amicably between the parties before the alteration takes place.

7<sup>th</sup>. The Governor & Council covenant that they will use their best endeavours to procure for the said Company such Situation within the description of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Article as the said Company shall fix on, together with a right to the Water and other conveniences necessary

for the said Manufactory and Foundry, also three thousand Acres of Land in one or more parcels in the neighbourhood of the said situation. If they cannot do it without committing violations on private property which the Laws will not authorize, or without giving such exorbitant prices as the importance of the Contract will not justify, they will report the same to the General Assembly at their next meeting, and if the Assembly shall not devise means of having it done, the whole contract shall become void.

8<sup>th</sup>. The said Peter Penett Windel & C<sup>o</sup>. covenant and agree that the Articles so to be procured for them by the Governor and Council as stated in the preceding Covenant shall be estimated by honest and judicious persons, to be chosen by joint consent of both parties according to their real Worth in Gold and Silver at the time they shall be purchased, but if the public shall have paid nothing for the water, nothing shall be required to be paid them for it. And the said Company will repay the Sum at which the said Articles shall be estimated either in arms to be made at the said Manufactory or Foundry at the prices herein after agreed on for other arms, or in arms or other Merchandize to be specified by the Governor and imported from France by the Governor and Council, or, if they chuse it, by the said Company at the risque and expence of the Commonwealth. The right of determining in which of the said ways payment shall be made, or how much in the one & how much in the other shall be in the Governor and Council: And so much as shall be called for by importation from France shall be ordered by the Company so soon as the Situation, land and other conveniences beforementioned shall be procured for the Company.

9<sup>th</sup>. The Governor and Council agree that if the said Peter Penett, Windel & co. shall fail in the execution of the preceding Articles through too great difficulties or other unforeseen Causes they shall not be liable to the Commonwealth for damages for breach of Contract. But in case of failure from any cause whatever, the land, water, and other conveniences procured for them with all improvements thereon shall become the absolute property of the Commonwealth; the said Commonwealth repaying the said Company the price which it shall have received under the 8<sup>th</sup>. Article for the said lands.

10<sup>th</sup>. The Governor and Council will recommend to the General Assembly the exemption for 21 years the managers Artists and Domestic imported by the Company and employed in and about the Manufactory and Foundry from all public Labors and from military service either in the Militia or elsewhere. And in order to ascertain the persons entitled to this exemption; their several Contracts with the Company shall be exhibited to the Clerk of the County in which the manufactory shall be, to be by him copied and safely kept for the inspection of Officers civil & military, Courts of Justice, and others concerned: if the assembly shall refuse such exemption the Company shall be at liberty to declare the whole Contract void.

11<sup>th</sup>. The Governor and Council will inhibit all officers from enlisting into military service before the determination of their engagements with the Company, the Artists and Domestic which the Company shall import and employ in and about the Manufactory and

Foundery and which shall be ascertained as provided in the preceding Article; and if enlisted, will have them discharged; and will recommend to the General Assembly to make provision by law for preventing the Citizens of this Commonwealth from taking them into their Service or seducing them away during the same term.

12<sup>th</sup>. The Governor and Council will recommend to the General Assembly to make provision by law for enforcing the persons described and ascertained in the two preceding Articles to a specific performance of their Contracts for service, and to authorize the Company to pass by-laws for the Government of the said persons inflicting penalties of fine and imprisonment where necessary; provided that such by-laws shall not be in force untill approved by the General Assembly.

13<sup>th</sup>. The Governor will receive the arms contracted for in the third Article in time and manner as there specified; and the Commonwealth in six months after receiving them shall pay to the Company for every Musket Bayonet and scabbard thirty Livres ten sous Tournois money of France, for every Carbine mounted with brass thirty eight Livres ten Sous of like money, for every horsemans sword mounted with brass with its scabbard 12 Livres of like money.

14<sup>th</sup>. The Governor and Council will undertake to purchase for the Company one Mine of iron ore, one of copper and one of Coal all of good quality, if they can do it without committing violations on private property which the Laws will not authorize, or if such Mines can be found in unappropriated lands the Company shall be entitled to a grant of one of each kind gratis: so as that they shall be entitled to but one of each kind by grant & purchase. They shall have liberty to search in any unappropriated lands for such mines, and the Governor and Council will endeavour to get leave for them to search also in appropriated lands for the like Mines. The Governor and Council will undertake under the like reservation as to the rights of private property to purchase for or grant to the Company five thousand acres of land adjacent to each of the said mines, and the streams of water necessary for working them. If any of the said mines shall become exhausted, the like shall be purchased or granted in the same manner and under the same reservation in lieu thereof. The said Company covenant that the purchase money or cost of such mines, lands and streams of water shall be estimated by honest & judicious men to be chosen by joint consent of both parties according to its real worth in Gold & Silver at the time the payment of such purchase money or price shall become due from the State, and that it shall be repaid by the Company as is before covenanted by them in the 8<sup>th</sup>. Article as to payment for the matters stated in the 7<sup>th</sup>. Article. The State shall at its own expence open a road from each mine to the river if that be practicable, or, if not, then to the nearest highroad.

15<sup>th</sup>. The Company shall have right to conduct a Canal from Westham to Richmond, & erect its banks on and thro' any lands whether of public or private property with a saving only as to the rights of John Ballendine so far as they be maintainable in law & equity, but as to the rights of the said John Ballendine the Governor and Council are of opinion that there being no reasonable prospect that he will ever complete the Canal, his rights ought not to obstruct the Com-



pleting it for the public convenience by other hands any more than the rights of others, and will therefore refer to the General Assembly the subjecting his property in like manner with that of other individuals, and also that the Lands of individuals which shall be occupied by the Canal & its banks, and damages sustained by them in consequence thereof shall be paid for by the Commonwealth, and such payment not redemanded from the Company the breadth of the said Canal & Horseway on each side, & the depth of water for navigation, as also the toll to be allowed to the Company and mode of levying it shall be as the General Assembly shall prescribe. The Company shall declare before the first day of January 1781 or so soon after as the General Assembly shall have prescribed the Circumstances just before mentioned whether they will undertake the Canal or not, and at the same time shall declare within what term they will complete it. If that term shall exceed ten year the General Assembly shall be at liberty to declare the several Articles of this Contract relative to the said Canal to be void. If they undertake and fail to complete it within the term agreed, their rights under the same Articles shall vest in the Commonwealth. It shall be lawful for the General Assembly at any time after the year 1840 to take into the hands of the Commonwealth the property of the Canal, its waters, locks, banks and other appendages and the necessary privileges in the adjacent ground for repairing them leaving to the undertakers the use of such portions of the water and in such places for working of their Machines as they shall have applied to that use during the first 25 years after their undertaking it, and paying to them the double of what the opening the said Canal, building the locks, banks, & other the said appendages thereof shall have cost them, the amount of which cost shall be kept by the Company separate and apart from that of their other Works and shall annually with their Vouchers be laid before the persons jointly to be chosen by the Governor & Council & the Company, to be by them examined and certified so far as they find them just, and a Copy of such certificates to be given to each party & to be binding between them. Where such cost shall have been defrayed in paper money or commodities the true worth thereof in Gold and Silver at the time of the expenditure and at the place where expended shall be estimated by the same persons and the repayment thereof as also of all expenditures of Gold and Silver shall be made in double the quantity of Gold & Silver as before agreed. In consideration of this right of resumption reserved to the Commonwealth, the Governor and Council will recommend to the General Assembly to take the same into their consideration when they shall proceed to establish the toll & to allow such toll as will with tolerable certainty reimburse the Company within the term of 50 years and also to give a right of passage to all the productions of the Manufactory & foundery and the necessaries for them till the year 1890.

16<sup>th</sup>. In case of the impracticability or too great difficulty of opening the Canal aforesaid the State will at its own expence prepare a firm & commodious road from the Manufactory & foundery into the main road leading to Richmond, for transporting the Cannon & other productions of the Manufactory & Foundery.

17<sup>th</sup>. The Governor & Council will extend to the Company all protection assistance and privileges which to them shall appear reasonable, & shall be within their power, & will recommend the same to be done by the General Assembly.

18<sup>th</sup>. The Governor & Council covenant and agree that the preceding Articles shall be binding on them and their Successors on behalf of the Commonwealth, and the said Peter Penett Windel & co. covenant and agree that the said preceding Articles shall be binding on them jointly & severally their joint and several heirs, executors & administrators.

In Witness whereof Thomas Jefferson esquire Governor of the Commonwealth and with advice of the Council of State and Peter Penet on the part of the said Peter Penett Windel & co, have hereto interchangeably set their hands & Seals on the Day and year above written.<sup>25</sup>

THO<sup>s</sup>. JEFFERSON

Signed sealed & delivered by (Seal)

Thos Jefferson in presence of us (Seal) P. Penet  
Savarit pour moy et Wendel & Co.

Signed Sealed & delivered by  
Peter Penet in presence of  
Merewether Smith.

[Endorsed:]

Penet, Wendel & co  
Articles of agreement (Copy)  
1779

<sup>25</sup>For petition of John Ballendine to the House of Delegates, see Journal for June 14, 1779.

On Friday, June 25, 1779, the Journal of the House of Delegates has the following entry:

Mr. Mason reported, from the committee to whom the memorial of Messrs. Pennett, Wendall and Company, was referred, that the committee had, according to order, had the same under their consideration, and come to several resolutions thereupon \* \* \* \* \* as foloweth:

*Resolved*, That the propositions made by Messrs. Penett and Company, are of great importance to this Commonwealth, and deserve the attention and utmost encouragement of the Legislature.

*Resolved*, That it will be to the interest of this Commonwealth to convey to the said Messrs. Penett and Company, three thousand acres of land, as convenient as may be to the place where they shall erect their foundry; and also some place, on or near James River, proper for erecting a furnace, whereon ore, wood and water, may be found convenient for carrying on the works, together with a coal mine, as convenient to the foundry as possible: taking from the said Penett and Company, sufficient security for their reimbursing to the public, all monies advanced for the said purchases.

*Resolved*, That the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be empowered to appoint proper persons, who shall, in conjunction with Messrs Penett and Company or persons appointed by them, examine the places on both sides of James river, which may be proper for erecting such works as are proposed to be established by the said Company; who, if they shall find any convenient place, other than Mr. Ballendine's, to be approved of by Messrs. Penett and Company, shall report the same to the Governor. who is hereby required to purchase from the proprietor of such place so much ground as may be necessary for erecting said works; and also that he purchase from all persons holding lands, through which it may be requisite to cut a canal or open a road to Richmond or Manchester, as the case may be, as

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE GOVERNOR OF DETROIT.

*(From the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

Wmsburg, July 22d, 1779

Sir,

Your Letter, on the subject of Lieutenant Governor Hamiltons confinement, came safely to hand. I shall with great cheerfulness explain, to you, the Reasons on which the advice of Council was founded, since, after the satisfaction of doing what is right, the greatest is

much land as will be necessary for that purpose, and convey the same to Messrs. Penett and Company, taking sufficient security for the same, as required in the foregoing resolutions.

*Resolved*, That the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be empowered to contract with Messrs. Penett and Company, that they shall reimburse to this Commonwealth such part of the money advanced in the purchases before directed, as they shall think proper, by the most speedy importation of arms and military stores, and that they farther contract with Messrs. Penett and Company, for an annual supply of cannon and small arms after the completion of their works, in such numbers, on such terms, and for so long a time, as they shall think proper.

In the "Journal of the House of Delegates," Nov. 18, occurs the following:

Mr. Henry reported, from the committee of Propositions and Grievances, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the Governor's letter respecting Mr. John Ballendine's claim to the canal and lands adjoining thereto, near Westham; also the Buckingham furnace; together with the memorial of the said John Ballendine and John Reevly \* \* \* \* \*

*Resolved*, that it is the opinion of this committee, That they cannot, consistently with the Constitution of this Commonwealth, assume to themselves the judiciary powers of government; and therefore, that the determination of the validity of the said Ballendine's title to the canal and certain adjacent lands near Westham, is the proper object of the courts of justice. The committee do not mean by this resolution to impeach or contract that principle of law which asserts "that the interest of the individual must be subservient to the public good."

*Resolved*, that it is the opinion of this committee, That the Governor and Council be referred to the resolution of the Assembly of the 25th of June, 1779, with respect to the line of conduct to be observed towards the said John Ballendine.

In the "Journal of the House of Delegates," Monday, December 13, occurs the following:

General Nelson reported, from the committee of Propositions and Grievances, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration, an agreement entered into by the Governor and Council with Messrs. Peter Penet, Windel & Co. and had come to several resolutions thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, and agreed to by the House, as followeth:

*Resolved*, That the said contract be referred to the consideration of the next session of Assembly, that full information may be had upon the practicability of carrying the same into execution.

*Resolved*, That the Governor and Council be empowered to purchase on account of the Commonwealth, certain lots in the town of Richmond, upon which an inquisition hath been returned against Ninian Minzies, a British subject, and grant the same for a limited time, not exceeding three years, as they shall think reasonable, unto the said Messrs. Penet, Windel & Co. for the purpose of erecting houses for the accomodation of their workmen, and a wooden shop where the said workmen may be employed in repairing arms for this State; one half of the expense of such buildings to be defrayed by this State, and the other half by the said Company; and that at the expiration of the term for which the said lots shall be granted to the said Company, as the same will then revert to the public, the buildings which shall have been erected thereon, at the joint charge of the State and Company, shall be valued, and one half the amount of such valuation refunded to the said Penet, Windel & Co.



that of having what we do approved by those whose opinions deserve esteem.

We think ourselves justified in Governor Hamilton's strict confinement, on the general principle of national retaliation. To state to you the particular facts of British Cruelty to american prisoners, would be to give a melancholy history from the capture of Colo Ethan Allen, at the beginning of the war, to the present day; a history which I will avoid, as equally disagreeable, to you, & to me. I with pleasure do you the justice to say that I believe these facts to be very much unknown to you, as Canada has been the only Scene of your service, in america, and, in that quarter, we have reason to believe that Sr. Guy Carleton, and the other officers commanding there, have treated our prisoners (since the instance of Colo Allen) with considerable lenity. What has been done in England, & what in New York, and Philadelphia, you are probably uninformed; as it would hardly be made the subject of epistolary correspondence. I will only observe to you, Sir, that the confinement and treatment, of our officers, soldiers, & seamen, have been so rigorous, and cruel, as that a very great proportion of the whole of those captured in the course of this war, & carried to Philadelphia, while in possession of the British army and to New York, have perished miserably from that cause only; and that this fact is as well established, with us, as any historical fact which has happened in the course of the War. A Gentleman of this Commonwealth, in public office, and of known & established Chracter, who was taken on sea, carried to New York and exchanged, has given us lately a particular information of the treatment of our prisoners there. Officers taken by land, it seems, are permitted to go on parole within certain limits on Long Island, till suggestions shall be made to their prejudice by some Tory refugee, or other equally worthless person, when they are hurried to the Provot in New York, without enquiring whether they be founded upon positive facts, be matter of hearsay, or taken from the reports of interested men. The example of enquiring into the truth of charges of this nature, according to legal principles of evidence, has surely not been set us by our enemies. We enquired what these Provots were and were told they were the common miserable jails, built for the confinement of malefactors. Officers and men taken by sea were kept in prison ships infe(sted) with ( ) ught on by the crowd [Part of one line and all of another at bottom of page lacking] from five to ten a day. When therefore we are desired to advert to the possible consequences of treating prisoners with rigour, I need only ask when did those rigours begin? not with us assuredly. I think you Sir, who have had as good opportunities as any British officer of learning in what manner we treat those whom the fortune of war has put into our hands, can clear us from the charge of rigour as far as your knowledge or information has extended. I can assert that Governor Hamilton's is the first instance which has ocured in my own country, and, if there has been another in any of the United States, it is unknown to me: these instances must have been extremely rare, if they have ever existed at all, or they could not have been altogether unheard of by me, when a uniform exercise of kindness to prisoners on our part has been returned by as uniform severity on the



part of our enemies. You must excuse me for saying it is high time, by other lessons, to teach respect to the dictates of humanity, in such a case retaliation becomes an act of benevolence.

But suppose, Sir, we were willing, still longer, to decline the drudgery of general retaliation; yet Governor Hamilton's conduct has been such as to call for exemplary punishment on him personally. In saying this I have not so much in view his particular cruelties to our Citizens, prisoners with him, (which tho they have been great, were of necessity confined to a small scale), as the general nature of the service he undertook, at Detroit, and the extensive exercise of cruelties which that involved. Those who act together in war are answerable for each other. No distinction can be made between principal and ally by those against whom the war is waged. He who employs another to do a deed, makes the Deed his own. If he calls in the hand of the assassin, or murderer, himself becomes the assassin or murderer. The known rule of warfare of the Indian Savages is an indiscriminate butchery of men, women & children. These savages, under this well-known Character, are employed by the British Nation as allies in the war against the Americans. Governor Hamilton undertakes to be the conductor of the war. In the execution of that undertaking, he associates small parties of the whites under his immediate command with large parties of the savages, & sends them to act, sometimes jointly, sometimes separately, not agst our forts, or armies in the field, but the farming settlements on our frontiers. Governor Hamilton then is himself the butcher of Men Women & Children. I will not say to what length the fair rules of war would extend the right of punishment against him; but I am sure that confinement, under its strictest circumstances, for<sup>26</sup> Indian devastation and massacre must be deemed Lenity. I apprehend you had not sufficiently adverted to the expression in the advice of the Council, when you suppose the proclamation there alluded to, to be the one addressed to the Inhabitants of the Illinois afterwards printed in the public papers, & to be affirmed to contain . . . . denunciations . . . .

[Two lines at bottom of page are obliterated] . . . . ians' Proclamation, there alluded to, contained nothing more than an invitation to our officers and soldiers to join British Arms against those whom he is pleased to call Rebels and Traitors. In order to introduce these among our people, they were put into the hands of the Indians; and in every house, where they murdered or carried away the family, they left one of these proclamations, some of them were found sticking on the breasts of the persons murdered, one under the hand and seal of Governor Hamilton came to our hands. The Indians being the Bearers of Proclamations under the hand and seal of Governor Hamilton (no matter what was the subject of them) there can be no doubt they were acting under his directions; and, as including this proof, the fact was cited in the Advice of the Council. But if you will be so good as to recur to the address to the Illinois, which you refer to, you will find that, tho' it does not in express terms threaten vengeance, blood & Massa-

<sup>26</sup>After "for" the words "the horrors of an Indian war" are cancelled out in the MS.

ere, yet it proves that the Governor had made for us the most ample provision of all these Calamities. He there gives in detail the horrid Catalogue of savage<sup>27</sup> nations, extending from South to North, whom he had leagued with himself to wage combined war on our frontiers; and it is well known that that war would of course be made up of blood, and general Massacres of men, Women & Children. Other papers of General Hamiltons have come to our hands, containing instructions to officers going out with scalping parties of Indians and Whites, & proving that that kind of war was waged under his express orders; further proofs in abundance might be adduced, but I suppose the fact too notorious to need them.

Your letter seems to admit an inference that, whatever may have been the general Conduct of our enemies towards their prisoners, or whatever the personal conduct of Governor Hamilton, yet, as a prisoner by capitulation, you consider him as privileged from strict confinement. I do not pretend to an intimate<sup>28</sup> knowledge of this Subject. My Idea is that the term 'prisoners of war' is a generic one, the specification of which is—1<sup>st</sup> Prisoner at discretion; & 2<sup>d</sup> prisoners on convention, or Capitulation. Thus in the debate in the house of Commons of the 27th November last, on the address, the minister, speaking of General Burgoyne (and in his presence) says he is 'a prisoner', and General Burgoyne calls himself 'a prisoner under the terms of the Convention of Saratoga', intimating that, tho' a prisoner, he was a prisoner of a particular Species entitled to certain terms. The treatment of the first class ought to be such as is approved by the usage of polished nations; gentle and<sup>29</sup> humane, unless a contrary conduct in an enemy, or individual, render a stricter treatment necessary. The prisoners of the 2<sup>d</sup> Class have nothing to exempt them from a like treatment with those of the 1<sup>st</sup> except so far as they shall have been able to make better terms by articles of Capitulation. So far then as these shall have provided for an exemption from strict treatment so prisoners on Capitulation have a right to be distinguished from those at discretion. I do not propose \* \* \* \* \* history furnishes \* \* \* were [MS. mutilated at bottom of page] certain causes antecedent thereto, tho' such instances might be produced, from English history too, and in one case where the King himself commanded in person. Marshal Boufflers after the taking of the castle Namur, was arrested and detained prisoner of War by King William tho by an article in the Capitulation it was stipulated that the officers & soldiers of the Garrison in general, and Marshal Boufflers by name, should be at Liberty. However we waive reasoning on this head, because no article in the Capitulation of Governor Hamilton is violated by his confinement. Perhaps,<sup>30</sup> not having seen the Capitulation, you were led to suppose it a thing of course, that, being able to obtain terms of surrender, they would first provide for their own treatment. I inclose you a copy of the Capitulation, by which you will see that

<sup>27</sup>Just before the word "savage" the word "Indian" occurs crossed out in the MS.

<sup>28</sup>The cancelled out word "accurate" occurs before "intimate."

<sup>29</sup>Before "humane" the word "lenient" is cancelled out in the MS.

<sup>30</sup>Before "Perhaps" occur the words "I wager that" cancelled out.

the 2d Article declares them prisoners of War; and nothing is said as to the treatment they were to be entitled to. When Governor Hamilton signs indeed, he adds a flourish, containing the motives inducing him to capitulate, one of which was confidence in a generous Enemy. He should have reflected that generosity on a large scale would take side against him. However these were only his private motives, & did not enter into the contract of Col<sup>o</sup>. Clarke. Being prisoners of war then, with only such privileges as their Capitulation has provided, & that having provided nothing on the subject of their treatment, they are liable to be treated as other prisoners. We have not extended our order, as we might justifiably have done to the whole of this Corps. Governor Hamilton & Capn. Lamothe alone, as leading offenders, are in confinement. The other officers and men are treated as if they had been taken in justifiable war; the officers being on large on their parole, and the men also having their liberty to a certain extent. (Dejean was not included in the Capitulation being taken 8 days after, on the Wabache 150 miles from St. Vincennes.)

I hope Sir that, being made more fully acquainted with the facts on which the advice of Council was grounded; and exercising your own good sense in cool & candid deliberation on these facts, & the consequences deducible from them, according to the usages & sentiments of civilized nations, you will see the transaction in a very different light from that in which it appeared at the time of writing your Letter, and ascribe the advice of the Council, not to want of attention to the sacred nature of public<sup>31</sup> conventions, of which I hope we shall never, in any circumstances, lose sight, but to a desire of stopping the effusion of y<sup>e</sup>. unoffending blood of women & children, and the unjustifiable severities exercised on our captive officers & soldiers in general, by proper severities on our part.

I have the honor to be with much personal respect

Sir

your most obed & mo hble Servant<sup>32</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM FLEMING.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 256.)

Albemarle,<sup>33</sup> Aug. 7, 1779.

Sir,—

The enclosed order will explain to you the general plan adopted for regimenting, officering & stationing the two Western battalions. We are in hopes you will so far proceed in concert with the other commissioners as that the chain of posts to be recommended may form a complete Western defence, leaving no chasm in the middle. We wish you, when you report the stations proposed, to advise us also to what

<sup>31</sup>Before "public" occurs the cancelled out word "National."

<sup>32</sup>In Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson" this letter is assumed to be addressed to the governor of Canada (Sir Guy Carleton). This assumption is rendered untenable by a statement in the second paragraph of the letter.

<sup>33</sup>Gov. Jefferson was absent from Williamsburg during the month of August and, apparently, the greater part of September also.

particular station it will be best for the men of each county respectively to go. As it will not be long before the men ought to be raised according to the directions of the law, and it will be proper for the Executive to pay immediate attention to the procuring arms and camp utensils for them, I should therefore be glad if you will be so good as to lay before them a state of the arms in your possession or at any other convenient station: also for your opinion what proportion of the men should be furnished with rifles, where rifles are to be had and on what terms.

*(From Journal of the Navy Board.)*

Friday August 13, 1779.

\* \* \*

Ordered that the Board of trade be furnished with a copy of a requisition of this Board, to the honourable Council, respecting the establishment of a separate office for the reception of naval stores; and the appointment of a commissary for the disposition of the same: to which said requisition the honourable Council have given their assent.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. PRESTON.

*(From Virginia State Archives.)*

Aug. 7, 1779.

*Sir,*

You are desired to call together your field officers & in conjunction with them to recommend to the Executive a Lieutenant & an Ensign to take command in one of the battalions to be raised for the defence of the Western frontier under an act of the late assembly intitled an act for raising a body of troops for the defence of the Commonwealth. the men to be raised in your county under the same act & the officers to be recommended by you, if appointed, are to hold themselves in readiness on the shortest warning to proceed to such post on the Southwestern frontier, or on such other Western service as shall be ordered by the Executive or the officer who shall be appointed to take command of them. be pleased to transmit your recommendation to the Executive in Williamsburg by the earliest opportunity you can, & also to report to them from time to time your progress in raising your men. I am Sir

Your very humble Ser<sup>t</sup>

TH. JEFFERSON

Montgomery<sup>34</sup>

To Col<sup>o</sup>. Preston.

[Endorsed: 8 Sepr came to Hand, Col. Preston]

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<sup>34</sup>A similar circular has been found directed to the County Lieutenant of Hampshire.



(From Virginia Gazette, October 16, 1779.)

IN COUNCIL, August 18, 1779.

Hezekiah Ford<sup>35</sup> late Secretary to the Honourable Arthur Lee, one of the Commissioners of the United States, having been accused to this Board of certain treasonable practices against the said states, and appearing this day before the Board, requested that they would appoint a day to examine into the truth of the accusations brought against him during his absence; whereupon the first *Tuesday* in *October* next was appointed for hearing Mr. Ford, and examining witnesses touching the said accusations; he having given bond in the penalty of 1000 l. to attend at the Board on the day aforesaid, and not to do or say anything in the mean time, to the prejudice of the United States.

(A Copy)

ARCHIBALD BLAIR C. C.

LT. GOV. JOHN PAGE TO JOHN TODD, JR.<sup>36</sup>

(From Virginia State Archives.)

IN COUNCIL

Wmsburg August ye 20<sup>th</sup> 1779.

Sir

Your several Letters of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup> Ultimo by Col<sup>o</sup> Slaughter this day were handed to me in the Governors absence—I laid them before the Board who were pleased with their Contents & expressed their approbation of your Conduct & of your plan for supporting the Credit of the paper Money, but this must be submitted to the Consideration of the Assembly who alone can determine on or give Efficacy to that measure, The Eight Draughts you mentioned have not yet been presented but shall be duly attended to, as the Gentlemen they are payable to are highly deserving of the grateful attention of Government.

It is to be wished that more Troops had been sent into the Illinois at first however so much has been done by the few there as to redound greatly to their Credit, & that of their gallant Commander—We hope that the favourable Disposition of the Canadians & our late Successes to the Northward & Southward will pave the way for Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke to Detroit & make the acquisition of it easy; and that the Battalion which we are now raising to be marched into your country will enable him

<sup>35</sup>On August 12 Richard Henry Lee wrote to his brother, Arthur Lee:—"I have persuaded Mr. Ford to go directly to Williamsburg and demand a public hearing before the Governor & Council where he says he can fully vindicate himself from the foul aspersions against him—I hope he will."

The same day R. H. Lee wrote to Jefferson:—"A few days ago Mr Ford (late Secretary to Dr Lee) arrived at my house in 7 weeks from France with many letters for Congress, and one packet for the Governor of Virginia which accompanies this."

See Ballagh's "Letters of Richard Henry Lee," II, 112 *et seq.*

<sup>36</sup>An Act of the Virginia Assembly (December, 1778) had created the "County of Illinois" to include "all citizens of this Commonwealth who are already settled, or shall hereafter settle, on the western side of the Ohio." Capt. John Todd had been appointed civil governor, with the title of colonel and county lieutenant.

to surmount any obstacle which may be thrown into his way; The Board approve of your erecting the small Fort <sup>37</sup> you propose & giving the Command to Col<sup>d</sup> Slaughter. Being in haste I can only add that I am

Your Mo. Obed<sup>t</sup> humbl Serv<sup>t</sup>  
JOHN PAGE  
Lt Gov<sup>r</sup>

John Todd, Esq. County L<sup>t</sup>  
& Com<sup>dr</sup> of the Illinois.

*(From Journal of the Board of War, <sup>38</sup> a Manuscript in the Virginia State Archives Bound in a Volume entitled "Papers Concerning the Army of the Revolution," Vol. I.)*

Saturday the 21 day of August.

Present James Innes, Ro. Lawson, Samuel Griffin and James Barron esquires.

Ordered that the Keeper of the public magazine deliver to the keeper of the naval stores the colours and hour glasses, he has in his care, for the use of the navy.

Ordered that Mr. Burke immediately proceed with Mr. Maddison and Mr. Andrews, commissioners appointed by the General Assembly for fixing a boundary line between this state and Pensylvania in the boat patriot to Baltimore, and there wait their orders. <sup>39</sup>

<sup>37</sup>Col. Todd's letters of the 1st and 2nd of July referred to in the first sentence of Lt. Gov. John Page's letter, have been lost, and it is not absolutely certain of what fort he was speaking—probably, however, of one to be built at the mouth of the Ohio. It was named Fort Jefferson. Of its founding Mr. Temple Bodley has the following to say:

"The founding of Fort Jefferson has repeatedly been represented as a blunder, because it was said it brought on a war with the Chickasaws. Some have attributed the alleged mistake to Jefferson, others to Clark. In truth, as the contemporary records clearly show: (1) the building of the fort was ordered by Jefferson for political reasons far outweighing an objection based on apprehended conflict with the Chickasaws, for he wished by actual possession to maintain a right to the country against Spain, and furthermore, (2) the Chickasaws were already at war with us before the fort was built. Clark wrote: 'Its notorious they had done a great deal of mischief for two years before and the building of the post actually stopt a formidable invasion . . . by them.'"—Note on page 143 of Bodley's "George Rogers Clark."

<sup>38</sup>The Navy Board was discontinued by the General Assembly of Virginia at the May session, 1779, and members elected on June 17 were James Innes, William Nelson, Robert Lawson, Samuel Griffin and James Barron. See Journal of House, June 17, 1779.

<sup>39</sup>The agreement of the commissioners was as follows:

"Baltimore 31st Augst 1779

We James Madison & Robert Andrews Commissioners for the State of Virginia & George Bryan John Ewing & David Rittenhouse commissioners for the State of Pennsylvania do hereby mutually, in Behalf of our respective States ratify and confirm the following Agreement, viz To extend Mason's & Dixon's Line due west five Degrees of Longitude to be computed from the River Delaware for the Southern Boundary of Pennsylvania, & that a Meridian drawn from the Western Extremity thereof to the Northern Limit of the sd State be the Western Boundary of Pennsylvania forever: In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands this thirty first Day of August in the year of our Lord 1779.

J. MADISON  
ROBERT ANDREWS

GEO: BRYAN  
JOHN EWING  
DAVID RITTENHOUSE"

[On June 24 the House of Delegates had selected by ballot Thomas Lewis, the Rev. James Madison and the Rev. Robert Andrews<sup>40</sup> as commissioners.]

LT. GOV. JOHN PAGE TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE BOARD OF WAR.<sup>41</sup>

(From *Continental Congress Papers*, 147, V. II, 471.)

In Council Williamsburg Aug<sup>t</sup>. 28, 1779

Sir—

Your Letter to Governor Jefferson on the Subject of the Muskets lately imported into this State for the use of the United States was handed to me in the Governors absence.

I laid it before the Council, who referred it to the Board of War, and on their representing to the Council the defenceless Condition of our Country, the want of the Arms, with which the united States have been furnished by this Common Wealth; they were directed to retain 5000 Stand of the said Arms, and place them to the Credit of the United States in part of the Arms so furnished.—

I have the Honor to be

Y<sup>r</sup>. Mo. ob. Ser<sup>t</sup>

JOHN PAGE Lt. GOV<sup>r</sup>.

(Public Service)

[Addressed:]

The Honble

The President  
of the Board of War  
Philadelphia

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On December 15, 1779, President Reed of Pennsylvania wrote to the (Pennsylvania) Delegates in Congress:— "It cannot be unknown to you that the State of Pennsylvania not only from a due Respect to the Recommendations of Congress, but from the Disposition & Temper of its Citizens have manifested the most Sincere Desire not only to settle all Disputes of Territory in the most amicable Manner but to forbear any irritating Measures & even to repress such Resentments rather than injure the common Cause & violate the Union so necessary in the common Defence—Actuated by these principles we have seen the State of Virginia in progressive Encroachments advancing upon the old allowed Territory of this State taking Possession & otherwise establishing themselves on Lands ever deemed & considered the Property of Pennsylvania until Ld Dunmore in the Extravagance of his Views & Designs set up Claims which in their Infancy were reprobated by those who now have thought proper to adopt them." etc. See "Pennsylvania Archives," VIII, 46.

<sup>40</sup>Robert Andrews, a native of New Jersey, was a professor at William and Mary College. His fellow-commissioner was president of the college, later becoming first Episcopal bishop of the diocese of Virginia.

<sup>41</sup>From Journal of the Continental Congress, September 8:

A Letter of 6, from the Board of War, was read, enclosing a letter from the executive council dated Aug. 28 and from the board of war of the State of Virginia, relative to arms belonging to the United States, detained by order of the said council for the use of that State.

In the Journal of the Continental Congress, October 19, occurs the following:

The Committee, to whom was referred the letter of the 6th instant from the Board of War, another letter of the 28th August, from John Page, Lt. Govr of the State of Virginia and a report of the Board of War of Virginia,

Report, that in their opinion the State of Virginia had no right to detain the

(From the Virginia Gazette, September 18, 1779.)

In Council, September 17, 1779.

All *British* subjects now in this State, who come within the meaning and description of the act of Assembly, intitled "An act concerning escheats and forfeitures from *British* subjects" and who have not already adopted some mode of leaving it, are required to attend at the city of *Williamsburg* on the 11th day of next month, without fail, in readiness to take their departure. A vessel will be prepared to convey them to *New York*.

By Order of the Lieutenant Governour in Council.

ARCHIBALD BLAIR, c. c.

[Late in September Jefferson wrote to the Governor of Maryland. See "Journals of the Continental Congress," XV, 1137. (Oct. 2, 1779.)]

"On a representation from the executive of Virginia, to the executive of Maryland, which was communicated to Congress by the delegates of Maryland \* \* \* \* \*

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the governor and council of Maryland, to permit as much bread, flour and wheat to be exported for the State of Virginia, as the said State may want for its public supply.<sup>42</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO JOHN JAY, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(From Papers of the Continental Congress, 71, v. I, 271.)

Williamsburg, Sep. 25, 1779.

Sir

The various calamities which during the present year have befallen our crops of wheat, have reduced them so very low as to leave

Arms imported on account and for the use of the United States, as thereby the safety and welfare of these States may be essentially endangered. Such conduct we conceive to be also pregnant with danger because any State in the union undertaking to be its own Carver must consequently lay a foundation for anarchy and confusion, And shows an unreasonable want of confidence in Congress as must greatly tend to lessen them in the opinion of the other States and of the whole world, and render their determinations of little effect. Your committee conceive the proper mode for the State of Virginia to have adopted on this occasion ought to have been: to apply to Congress for the Arms they wanted for the use of that State, And whether there had or had not been Arms due from the United States to the State of Virginia, yet Congress, from the disposition they have ever manifested to render every assistance to the several States in the Union, would have been willing on the present occasion to gratify the State of Virginia. Provided such request could have been complied with, without manifest injury to the U. S. Therefore *Resolved*, That the 5000 stand of Arms detained by the Board of War of the State of Virginia by order and direction on the Lt. Gov<sup>r</sup> and council of the said State be permitted to remain in said State and that the State of Virginia be charged therewith.

*Resolved*, That the Governor and Council of the State of Virginia be informed that Congress find themselves constrained on this first instance of such a proceeding, to signify their disapprobation of the same, lest it should be drawn into a precedent that might hereafter operate to the manifest injury of the United States.

The report was ordered recommitted.

<sup>42</sup>Col. Samuel Smith was appointed agent by the Board of War of Virginia. See "Archives of Maryland," XXI, 552.

See also p. 564 for reference to "Letters from the Lieut Governor and Board of War of Virginia, requesting they might purchase and export for the State Use about 5000 Barrls of Flour." (Council of Maryland to S. Smith, 22 Oct.)



us little more than seed for the ensuing year, were it to be solely applied to that purpose. this country is therefore unable to furnish the necessary supplies of flour for the Convention troops, without lessening, by so much as should be purchased, the sowing for another crop. I am therefore to submit to you Sir the expediency of ordering your Commissary general to send supplies of this article from the head of Elk or wherever else you may think best, to Richmond. Colo. Aylett informs us they will require about ten thousand barrels for a year's supply. we hope there will be a plenty of forage and of all other articles, necessary for their subsistence, raised within this state.

To the President of Congress. <sup>43</sup>  
(John Jay.)

[The purport of a letter of Gov. Jefferson to R. H. Lee may be gathered from Lee's reply, dated Chantilly, October 13, 1779. (See Ballagh's "Letters," II, 157.)]

"I am very much obliged to you for your favor of the 28 of September and for the trouble you took in writing a copy of the letter I wrote to you by Mr. Ford. \* \* \* \* I beg your pardon my dear Sir for having given you a moments trouble on this occasion. I did not mean to do so, my design was only to prevent in future this mode of misrepresentation, and it is effectually done by your information that writing 'private' on the letters intended to be so, would prevent public inspection. \* \* \* \* By the last post (I) am informed from Congress that an Embarkation of Troops from N. York has taken place with Teams &c. supposed for a secret Southern expedition. \* \* \* \* Mr. Le Maire told me there were 8000 stands of Arms belonging to our State in Nantes. They would be a glorious acquisition if we had them \* \* \* \* Such is the tardiness of people to engage in the Military that we have yet obtained but two men in Westmoreland upon both the acts "for raising a body of Troops &c" and that "concerning Officers, Soldiers, Sailors & Marines."

[On September 20, Lee had written to Gov. Jefferson:] "I find by a letter that I received from Philadelphia by the last post, that some person has been representing a part of my letter to you by Mr. Ford

<sup>43</sup>Read in Congress on October 7, and ordered referred to Board of War. See Journal.

The Board of War brought in a report on October 18, setting forth:

That the reason for stationing the Troops of Convention in Virginia was that they might draw supplies which could not be useful from their distance to our army. That the difficulties attending the procuring these supplies will be rendered nearly insurmountable, if they are too much interfered with by demands for other troops than those of our army and for the fleet of our ally. That if either party is put to inconvenience, it should be our enemies, and tho' we would not wish to imitate them in all things, we look upon it but a small retaliation, if any, to oblige their prisoners to eat wholesome Indian Bread, instead of that made from wheat flour; and as Indian corn is plenty in Virginia, tho' their crops of winter grain have in some degree failed, we conceive that bread may be delivered to the convention troops made of Indian corn, and if they do not choose to eat it, and the enemy wish to send them flour, they may be at full liberty to do it.

[Here follow the resolves.]

See, further, letter of Gov. Jefferson, dated December 16, 1779, to the president of Congress.

in a manner not altogether fair. It was by no means intended as a public letter, but written to my friend \* \* \* \* \*

[On September 23, Lee wrote:] "I had the honor of writing to you a few days past by M<sup>r</sup>. Booth, to which I beg leave to refer. This I expect will be delivered to you by Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Loyeauté & Le Maire- the latter is really unfortunately circumstanced as he states his case\* \* \* Can no method be fallen upon to avail ourselves of the skill and zeal of Monsieur Loyeauté in this branch and for this country? I am persuaded it would make him happy to put our Artillery on a respectable footing\* \* \*"

For Loyeauté, see also "Official Letters of the Governors of Virginia," I, 202 *et seq.*

(From the *Virginia Gazette*, October 9, 1779.)

In Council, September 29, 1779.

The Board having been at no time unmindful of the circumstances attending the confinement of Lieutenant Governour *Hamilton*, Captain *La Mothe*, and *Phillip Dejean*,<sup>44</sup> which the personal cruelties of these men, as well as the general conduct of the enemy had constrained them to advise, wishing, and willing to expect that their sufferings may lead them to the practice of humanity should any future turn of fortune in their favour submit to their discretion the fate of their fellow creatures; that it may prove an admonition to others meditating like cruelties, not to confide for impunity in any circumstances of distance or present security; and that it may induce the enemy to reflect what must be the painful consequences should a continuation of the same conduct on their part impel us to resort again to severities while such multiplied subjects of retaliation are within our power. Sensible that no impression can be made on the event of the war, by creating vengeance on miserable captives; that the great cause which has animated the two nations against each other is not to be decided by unmanly cruelties, on wretches who have bowed their necks to the power of the victor, but by the exercise of honourable valour in the field. Earnestly hoping that the enemy viewing the subject in the same light, will be contented to abide the event of that mode of decision and spare us the future pain of a second departure from kindness to our captives: Confident that commiseration to our prisoners is the only possible motive which can be candidly ascribed in the present actual circumstances of the war, the advice we are now about to give: The Board does advise the Governour to send Lieutenant-Governour *Hamilton*, Captain *La Mothe*, and *Phillip Dejean*, to *Hanover* court-house, there to suffer them to be at large within certain reasonable limits, taking their parole in the usual form: The Governour orders accordingly.

Ordered, that Major [John] Hay, be also sent under a like parole to the same place.

(A Copy)

ARCHIBALD BLAIR, C. C.

<sup>44</sup>In the *Virginia Gazette*, April 1, 1780, is found the following:—"Phillip Dejean Esq; Justice of Peace for the District of Detroit, on his way to Col. G. R. Clarke's headquarters, on parole, begs leave to return publick thanks to Mr. Peter Pelham, jail keeper in Williamsburg, for the humanity towards him when in his custody."

We learn that in consequence of the above advice, a parole was tendered to the Gentlemen; that they objected to that part of it which was to restrain them from *saying* anything to the prejudice of the United States, insisting on "*freedom of speech*;" they were thereupon remanded to their confinement, discharged of their irons.

Notice is hereby given that there are vacancies in the regiment of guards at the barracks in *Albemarle* for three Lieutenants and eight ensigns, to the appointment of whom the Executive will proceed on the 9th of *November*. It will be expected that those who shall be appointed will raise quotas of men usual for officers of the same rank before they will be entitled to receive their commissions.

*By Order of the Governour in Council.*

ARCHIBALD BLAIR C. C.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

*(From "Memoir" 1829.)*

Williamsburg, October 1, 1779.

*Sir,*

On receipt of your letter of August 6th, during my absence, the Council had the irons taken off the prisoners of war. When your advice was asked, we meant it should decide with us; and upon my return to Williamsburg the matter was taken up and the enclosed advice given. A parole was formed, of which the enclosed is a copy, and tendered to the prisoners. They objected to that part of it, which restrained them from *saying* any thing to the prejudice of the United States, and insisted on "*freedom of speech*." They were, in consequence, remanded to their confinement in the jail, which must be considered as a voluntary one, until they can determine with themselves to be inoffensive in word as well as deed. A flag sails hence to-morrow to New York, to negotiate the exchange of some prisoners. By her, I have written to General Phillips on this subject, and enclosed to him copies of the within; intending it as an answer to a letter I received from him on the subject of Governor Hamilton. I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient  
and most humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

*(From "Memoir" 1829.)*

Williamsburg, Oct. 2, 1779.

*Sir,*

Just as the letter accompanying this was going off, Colonel Mathews arrived on parole from New York, by the way of headquarters, bringing your Excellency's letter on his subject, with that of the Bri-

tish commissary of prisoners. The subject is of great importance, and I must, therefore, reserve myself to answer after further consideration. Were I to speak from present impressions, I should say it was happy for Governor Hamilton, that a final determination of his fate was formed before this new information. As the enemy have released Captain Willing<sup>45</sup> from his irons, the Executive of this State will be induced, perhaps, not to alter their former opinion. But it is impossible they can be serious in attempting to bully us in this manner. We have too many of their subjects in our power, and too much iron to clothe them with, and I will add, too much resolution, to avail ourselves of both, to fear their pretended retaliation. However, I will do myself the honor of forwarding to your Excellency, the ultimate result of Council on this subject.

In consequence of the information in the letter from the British commissary of prisoners, that no officers of the Virginia line, should be exchanged till Governor Hamilton's affair should be settled, we have stopped our flag, which was just hoisting anchor with a load of privates for New York. I must, therefore, ask the favor of your Excellency to forward the enclosed by flag, when an opportunity offers, as I suppose General Phillips will be in New York before it reaches you. I have the honor to be, Sir, with the greatest esteem,

Your most obedient, and  
most humble servant

TH: JEFFERSON

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE MATHEWS.<sup>46</sup>

(From "*Memoir*" 1829.)

In Council, [October,] 1779.

Sir,

The proceedings respecting Governor Hamilton and his companions, previous to your arrival here, you are acquainted with. For your more precise information, I enclose you the advice of Council, of June the 16th, of that of August the 28th, another of September the 19th, on the parole tendered them the 1st instant and Governor Hamilton's letter of the same day stating his objections, in which he persevered: from that time his confinement has become a voluntary one. You delivered us your letters the next day, when the post being just setting out, much business prevented the Council from taking them into consideration. They have this day attended to them, and found their resolution expressed in the enclosed advice bearing date this day. It gives us great pain that any of our countrymen should be cut off from the society of their friends and tenderest connections,

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<sup>45</sup>Capt James Willing was a prisoner in August 1778. Very little can be learned about him, but see the reference to him in Jefferson's letter to Col. George Mathews, *post*.

<sup>46</sup>Col. Geo. Mathews was at this time colonel of the 9th Virginia Infantry. He had been wounded and taken prisoner at Germantown on the 4th of October, 1777. His present mission to Virginia was unsuccessful. He was not exchanged till the 5th of Dec. 1781.



while it seems as if it was in our power to administer relief. But we trust to their good sense for discerning, and their spirit for bearing up against the fallacy of this appearance. Governor Hamilton and his companions were imprisoned and ironed, 1st. In retaliation for cruel treatment of our captive citizens by the enemy in general. 2nd. For the barbarous species of warfare which himself and his savage allies carried on in our western frontier. 3rd. For particular acts of barbarity, of which he himself was personally guilty, to some of our citizens in his power. Any one of these charges was sufficient to justify the measures we took. Of the truth of the first, yourselves are witnesses. Your situation, indeed, seems to have been better since you were sent to New York, but reflect on what you suffered before that, and knew others of your countrymen to suffer, and what you know is now suffered by that more unhappy part of them, who are still confined on board the prison ships of the enemy. Proofs of the second charge, we have under Hamilton's own hand: and of the third, as sacred assurances, as human testimony is capable of giving. Humane conduct on our part, was found to produce no effect: the contrary, therefore, was to be tried. If it produces a proper lenity to our citizens in captivity, it will have the effect we meant; if it does not, we shall return a severity as terrible as universal. If the causes of our rigor against Hamilton, were founded in truth, that rigor was just, and would not give right to the enemy to commence any new hostilities on their part; and all such new severities are to be considered, not as retaliation, but as original and unprovoked. If those causes were not founded in truth, they should have denied them. If, declining the tribunal of truth and reason, they choose to pervert this into a contest of cruelty and destruction, we will contend with them in that line, and measure out misery to those in our power, in that multiplied proportion which the advantage of superior numbers enables us to do. We shall think it our particular duty, after the information we gather from the papers which have been laid before us, to pay very constant attention to your situation & that of your fellow-prisoners. We hope that the prudence of the enemy will be your protection from injury, & we are assured that your regard for the honor of your country would not permit you to wish we should suffer ourselves to be bullied into an acquiescence, under every insult and cruelty they may choose to practice, and a fear to retaliate, lest you should be made to experience additional sufferings. Their officers and soldiers in our hands, are pledges for your safety: we are determined to use them as such. Iron will be retaliated by iron, but a great multiplication on distinguished objects; prison ships by prison ships, and like for like in general. I do not mean by this to cover any officer who has acted, or shall act improperly. They say Capt. Willing was guilty of great cruelties at the Natches; if so, they do right in punishing him. I would use any powers I have, for the punishment of any officer of our own, who should be guilty of excesses unjustifiable under the usages of civilized nations. However, I do not find myself obliged to believe the charge against Capt. Willing to be true, on the affirmation of the British commissary, because, in the next breath, he affirms

no cruelties have as yet been inflicted on him. Capt. Willing has been in irons.

I beg you to be assured, there is nothing consistent with the honor of your country, which we shall not, at all times, be ready to do for the relief of yourself and companions in captivity. We know, that ardent spirit and hatred for tyranny which brought you into your present situation, will enable you to bear up against it with the firmness which has distinguished you as a soldier, and to look forward with pleasure to the day, when events shall take place, against which, the wounded spirits of your enemies will find no comfort, even, from reflections on the most refined of the cruelties with which they have glutted themselves.

I am, with great respect,  
Your most obedient, and  
Most humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.<sup>47</sup>

(From "*Memoir*" 1829.)

In Council, Oct. 8, 1779.

Sir,

In mine of the second of the present month, written in the instant of Colonel Mathews' delivery of your letter, I informed you what had been done on the subject of Governor Hamilton and his companions, previous to that moment. I now enclose you an advice of Council, in consequence of the letter you were pleased to enclose me, from the British commissary of prisoners, with one from Lord Rawdon; also a copy of my letter to Colonel Mathews, enclosing, also, the papers therein named. The advice of Council to allow the enlargement of prisoners, on their giving a proper parole, has not been recalled, nor will be, I suppose, unless something on the part of the enemy should render it necessary. I rather expect, however, that they will see it their interest to discontinue this kind of conduct. I am afraid I shall hereafter, perhaps, be obliged to give your Excellency some trouble in aiding me to obtain information of the future usage of our prisoners. I shall give immediate orders for having in readiness, every engine which the enemy have contrived for the destruction of our unhappy citizens, captivated by them. The presentiment of these operations, is shocking beyond expression. I pray heaven to avert them: but nothing in this word will do it, but a proper conduct

<sup>47</sup>The reply of Gen. Washington to Jefferson's letters of October 1st, 2d, and 8th will be found in "The Writings of George Washington," edited by Worthington C. Ford, VIII, 121 *et seq.* It is dated Nov. 23. "In regard to your letter of the 8th," writes Washington, "I would hope with your Excellency, that there will be no necessity for cruelty with the enemy. Indeed, it is but justice to observe, that of late, or rather since Sir Henry Clinton has had the command, the treatment of our prisoners has been more within the line of humanity \* \* \* I shall not fail, however, as a matter of duty, to pay proper attention to such deviations from this conduct as may appear the result of mere wantonness or cruelty, and that have not been incurred by the irregularities of our prisoners."

in the enemy. In every event, I shall resign myself to the hard necessity under which I shall act.

I have the honor to be, with great  
regard and esteem,  
Your Excellency's  
Most obedient, and  
Most humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

(From "Memoir" 1829, 1, 459.)

In Council, October 8, 1779.

The Governor is advised to take proper and effectual measures for knowing, from time to time, the situation and treatment of our prisoners by the enemy, and to extend to theirs, with us, a like treatment, in every circumstance; and, also, to order to a proper station, the prison ship fitted up on recommendation from Congress, for the reception and confinement of such prisoners of war, as shall be sent to it.

ARCH: BLAIR C. C.

(From *Virginia Gazette*, October 16, 1779.)

IN COUNCIL, October 11, 1779.

Hezakiah Ford having failed to appear before the Board in his justification according to the condition of his bond on the 5th inst. or at any time since.

*Ordered*, that the depositions of the witnesses who attended on that day be safely kept by the Clerk, and that a farther day for his hearing be given him till *Wednesday* the 10th of *November*, and that this order be published three time in the *Virginia* gazette.

(A Copy)

ARCHIBALD BLAIR. C. C.

(From *Virginia Gazette*, October 16, 1779.)

IN COUNCIL, October 15, 1779.

The Captains, Lieutenants, and Ensigns, who were appointed by the Executive from among the late supernumerary officers, to command the two battalions raising for the defence of the eastern part of this commonwealth, are desired immediately to communicate to the Executive the dates of their former commissions, that the new commissions may be properly arranged; those who fail, will be liable to lose their rank, as the commissioning a part of the officers to take charge of the men already raised, can be delayed but a little longer.

*By Order of the Governour in Council.*

ARCHIBALD BLAIR. C. C.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO WILLIAM PRESTON. <sup>47a</sup>*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

Williamsburg, Oct. 15, 1779.

Having heard the disagreeable news of your illness, and that there was a doubt whether you would recover in time to attend to the duties of the commission for settling the Western titles, & the executing that commission being of very great importance, the executive has been induced, considering the great distance & the delays that would occasion, to direct the inclosed commission to be made out. I take the liberty of inclosing it to you, asking the favor of you if you should find yourself unable to proceed on the commission, to deliver it to Mr M<sup>c</sup>Dowell; otherwise to destroy it. I am Sir

Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

*(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Saturday, October 16, 1779.

*Resolved*, That the Governor be desired to lay before the House a return of the land forces in the immediate pay of this State, distinguishing the several corps, and ascertaining the number of commissioned officers, staff officers and soldiers, in each; and also, a return of the marine preparation of this State, the strength of the several vessels, and the number of officers and men, employed in that service.

## GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO WILLIAM PRESTON.

*(From Virginia State Archives.)*

Williamsburg Oct. 22. 1779.

Sir

Mrs Byrd the other day inclosed to me copies of two entries under your hand, the one for 1000 acres at & near the Lead mines on both sides New river joining Forbes's & Herbert's land including the Mine hill, the other for 1000 acres at the big French Salt lick on the S. W. side of Cumberland river near the mouth of Stone's creek, both made by Colo Byrd on the 1<sup>st</sup>. of March 1774 by virtue of Governor's warrants. under the present land law the original warrants are indispensably necessary to obtain a grant of the lands, to the widow. I must therefore pray the favor of you to contrive me by a very safe hand & as soon as you can, the original warrants, as Mrs Byrd, unacquainted with these things herself, has desired me to act in this matter for herself & children. I hope this letter will find you in better health than I lately heard you were.

I am D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

with much esteem,

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

Th: JEFFERSON

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<sup>47a</sup>The commissioners who actually served were William Fleming, Edmund Lyne, James Barbour, and Stephen Trigg.



P. S. should the change of counties or any other circumstance have put these warrants out of your hands you will oblige me by applying for them to the holder, as the distance will render repeated correspondence so dilatory as to defeat the widow's purpose.

[The letter just given is, of course, not an official one, but, because of its interest, is included, nevertheless. It is in the Preston Papers in the Virginia State Library and is in Jefferson's own hand.]

[In the Virginia House of Delegates on Tuesday, October 19] it was *Resolved*, That the Governor be desired immediately to direct the several naval officers within this Commonwealth, to grant no clearance to any vessel having salt on board;<sup>48</sup> and also, to issue orders to the commanders of the several armed vessels belonging to this State, to permit no vessel to depart thereout having salt on board, or having no legal clearance from a naval officer.<sup>49</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER  
OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(From Virginia State Archives, *Ex. Coms.*)

Sir,

Since the date of my former letter to you, I have read the inclosed resolutions of Congress containing a requisition of additional supplies of money. The General Assembly in considering this subject will naturally cast their eyes on the funds already provided for the Supply of their public treasury. As a principal branch of these was in some degree under the care and direction of the executive, I mean the proceeds of the estates of British subjects, it becomes my duty to guard the assembly against relying in their calculations for any great & immediate supplies from hence. Facts have come to our notice which give great reason to believe that the traverse & other pleadings justly allowed by the law for saving the rights of those who have real or probable appearance of right is perverted to frustrate or delay its effects, by being put in on grounds either frivolous or false and by that means throwing the subject into a course of legal contestation which under the load of business now on the docket of the general Court, may not be terminated in the present age. In one instance we are certified by the Clerk of the general Court that the estate is claimed by the Steward; tho' this very man undertook to act as Commissioner of the estate under the sequestration law by our appointment, & has himself personally rendered annual accounts to us of the proceeds of the estate as the estate of a British Subject. Yet his claim, palpably false as it is, in order to obtain the ceremony of being adjudged so, is to go through all the formalities of regular litigation, before the estate can be exposed to sale. Perhaps the aids expected from this law might still be obtained however, and as perfect justice done to every individual by a legislative provision for determining these pleadings

<sup>48</sup>See Hening, X, 150-151.

<sup>49</sup>Official who had charge of the clearance of vessels: not here used in the modern sense.

in a speedy way. I thought it my duty to guard the general assembly against any deception in their expectations from these funds, that no disappointments may accrue in the measures they shall be pleased to adopt.<sup>50</sup>

While on the subject of Continental demands for supplies from this State I am to inform you Sir of an unfortunate delay in the settlement of the Continental accounts. Immediately on the rising of the general assembly the Executive proceeded without intermission to put into a course of execution the several things made incumbent on them; it was the 17th of July before, according to their arrangements, they could proceed to appoint a Commissioner to settle the Continental account. They then appointed a Gentleman fully qualified in every point of view to discharge this duty perfectly. His first Letter, dated three days after the appointment gave us reason to hope he would undertake the charge. Ill health however and other subsequent circumstances obliged him to decline, and the letter notifying that did not come to hand till the 10th of last month. Since this no person has been found competent to the business & willing to undertake it. We are in hopes that the more extensive acquaintance of the members of General assembly may enable them to appoint a person equal to this very difficult business.

A Book of military institutions written by Major General Steuben and recommended for general use by Congress has been transmitted to me. I take the liberty of depositing it with the general assembly as on future revisions of their militia laws they may be able perhaps to extract some useful matters from it. or it may be thought worth printing & dispersing among the officers of y<sup>e</sup> militia.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Sir

Your mo obed<sup>t</sup> Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Th: JEFFERSON<sup>51</sup>

<sup>50</sup>“Governor Jefferson cautioned the assembly not to depend too much upon the receipts from the sale of British estates as a source of revenue. Petitions from absentee landlords indicated that the plan of escheat would involve much litigation, and probably the titles would not be clear for a generation. The House of Delegates, in October, 1779, undertook to solve some of the problems connected with the escheat. A committee of seven (later increased to fifteen), including Patrick Henry, Thomas Nelson, and George Mason, investigated the problem of selling British estates, examined the petitions to the assembly, and, on November 16, recommended changes. The law was so amended as to confirm all *bona fide* purchasers of British estates before May, 1779; any citizen of Virginia holding a mortgage on sequestered British property could file a petition in chancery and stop the sale. The amended law also provided that anyone who had left Virginia and had gone to England for education or to join his family could have his property restored if he would return and claim it before two years had elapsed or, in case of a minor, before he reached his majority. \* \* \* In anticipation of immediate returns from the sale of sequestered estates, one and a half million pounds was appropriated out of the net receipts to meet the requisitions of Congress.” Harrell’s “Loyalism in Virginia,” 92-93.

See also Hening, X, 154.

<sup>51</sup>Laid before the House the same day, and referred to the committee of the whole house.

(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.)

His Excell<sup>y</sup>  
The Governor,

M<sup>r</sup> Mercer's most respectful Compl<sup>ts</sup>. wait on the Governor- the Auditors say that the enclos'd order must have his name to it before they can issue a warrant on the treasurer- M<sup>r</sup>. Mercer begs pardon for troubling him.-[Jefferson wrote at the bottom of this as follows:]

In the act establishing the board of Auditors the words are that they are authorized & required 'to give warrants on the Treasurer for the payment or advance of wages to our delegates in Congress, debiting each delegate' &c. the Auditors then & not the governour are to give the warrant, as they will see on turning to the act.

Th: J.

Endorsed: James Mercer  
£150  
Octob<sup>r</sup> 23 1779  
On Account  
Delegate in Congress

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(From Papers of the Continental Congress, 71, V. I, 279.)

Williamsburg Oct. 24, 1779

Sir

Some time in June I received from mr Jay a letter desiring I would have evidence collected on the subject of some Frenchmen who were said to have been murdered in cold blood by the English during their invasion of this commonwealth in the Spring- several disappointments have retarded this matter much more than I could have wished, tho' we have paid repeated attention to it. I now do myself the honour of inclosing you the depositions taken on the subject, and am with much respect

Your most obedient  
& most humble serv<sup>t</sup>.  
Th: JEFFERSON.

[Addressed:]

His Excellency  
Samuel Huntington  
President of  
Congress

[Indorsed:] N<sup>o</sup> 50  
Letter from Gov<sup>r</sup> Jefferson  
of Virginia Oct. 24, 1779  
Read Nov. 10. - - -

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON SPEAKER  
OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)

In Council, Oct. 29, 1779.

Sir,

The Executive in the Month of March 1778, in order to secure the acquisition & proper choice of a supply of Arms, Ordnance & Military implements sent a Mr. Le Mair<sup>52</sup> of the Kingdom of France their Agent express for that purpose to Europe. He executed his commission with a zeal and assiduity which we have rarely met with, having traversed for fourteen months those parts of Europe backwards & forwards where there was a hope of getting the articles wanted, and after eighteen months absence returned himself in the last of three Vessels which he charged with ordnance and other necessaries. His reasonable expences we mean to pay and were about making him a proper pecuniary compensation for his time and great labour but he prays rather to be rewarded with military rank unattended by either pay or command; expecting to reap greater benefit from this in his own Country to which he is about to return. The Executive apprehending they have no authority to grant brevet commissions, refer to the general assembly the expediency of authorizing them to give to this Gentleman a Lieutenant Colonel's commission by way of brevet. They shall not indeed then think themselves discharged from making him some pecuniary compensation tho' a much smaller may be given than they had before proposed.

I have the honour to be  
with great respect

Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup>  
& most humble ser<sup>t</sup>.

Th: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER  
OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(From the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)

In Council, Oct<sup>r</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup> 1779.

The hon<sup>ble</sup> The Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Sir,

In pursuance of a resolution of the last session of General assembly the Executive proceeded to form a Contract with Messrs. Penet

<sup>52</sup>On Monday, Nov. 5, the House of Delegates

Resolved that the Governor be empowered, with the advice of the Council to grant to Captain Le Maire such Brevet Commission, as they may think his Services have intitled him.

(Agreed to by the Senate) (MS. Copy, V. S. A.)

Captain Le Maire, "having been gratified by the state in recompense of his services, and as a testimony of approbation of his conduct, with 2000 acres of land in one of the best districts of the country, and with a commission of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of dragoons," expressed his thanks in a public letter, printed in the *Virginia Gazette*, Nov. 20, 1779.



Windel & co. for the establishment of a manufactory of fire arms & foundry of ordnance on James river and for extending navigation through its falls. The several preliminary papers which passed between them are now transmitted to the general assembly that they may be enabled to judge of the obstacles the executive had to encounter, and to see the reasons explained which led them to the several conclusions. These articles also, as ultimately concluded, accompany this, together with a subsequent letter from Mr. Penet and memorial from Mr. Savarit desiring some alterations in two of the articles.

The several objects of this Contract must be admitted of the last importance. The depending on the transportation of arms across an element on which our enemies have reigned, for the defence of our own Country, has been already found insecure & distressing. The endeavours of five years aided with some internal manufactures have not yet procured a tolerable supply of arms. To make them within ourselves then as well as the other implements of war, is as necessary as to make our bread within ourselves. The present contract seems really to afford a promising appearance of future supply. Should these Articles meet with ratification from the General Assembly, I must still inform them that obstacles are likely to arise, of a very perplexing nature, from an unlucky connection of the public with a certain Mr. Ballandine who has entangled himself into every part of the subjects of this Contract. Some of his rights are real, some only pretended. Unless they can be cleared away by legislative authority in a speedy mode, liberal compensation being first allowed him for such of them as shall be found just, the length of time which would be required to allow him through Courts of Justice in the ordinary Course of proceedings, will defeat every hope which might be entertained from this Contract. The duty imposed upon the executive by the resolution of assembly led them necessarily to an investigation of this man's rights & pretensions. That the assembly may have proper lights to conduct their enquiries I will analyse his claims as they have appeared to us. They refer to three several subjects, which I will endeavour to keep distinct, to avoid that confusion they might otherwise throw on one another. 1. To the furnace in Buckingham. 2. To the Foundry at Westham. 3. To the Construction of a navigable Canal at the falls of James river.

1. Mr. Ballandine with a partner Mr. Reveley received by order from the assembly £5000 in the year 1776 for the purpose of erecting a Furnace in Buckingham & stipulated to repay it in pigiron at seven pounds ten shillings the ton, which in fact amounted to a contract to pay the public 666 $\frac{2}{3}$  tons of pigiron. in December 1777 he received a further sum of £2500. In May 1778 he petitioned the assembly to release him from the obligation of paying his Debt in iron at £7.10/ the ton, and to take it at the Market price at the time of delivery of the iron, the assembly resolved that he should be allowed more than the £7,10. but not the market price at the *time of delivery*, thus signifying their sense that there was some intermediate ground on which they meant to take their stand, but not pointing out what that was. This led us to suppose that the Market price of iron at the time of the

*payment of the money* to Ballendine might be what the assembly had probably in view. On settlement of his several accounts with the Commissioners whom we appointed according to the resolution of assembly for that purpose & whose report is transmitted herewith, there arose on one of them a balance in his favor for part of 3<sup>t</sup> 10<sup>c</sup> 2<sup>ar</sup> of pigiron delivered. The Commissioners had extended it in money at £30. the ton, and transferred the balance of £42-5 which that produced to the Credit of his account for the £5000. or 666 $\frac{2}{3}$  ton of iron. we think they should have credited so much of the 3<sup>t</sup> 10<sup>c</sup> 2<sup>ar</sup> of iron at £30. as would have balanced that account and transferred the residue, in iron, to the credit of his debt due in iron. This error would have been too trivial to have noted to you Sir, but as it tended to introduce a false principle into the account, & to prevent us from informing you precisely that of the 666 $\frac{2}{3}$  tons due to the public for the £5000 there has been paid only 1<sup>t</sup> 3<sup>c</sup>, and nothing paid towards discharging the additional £2500. To secure these balances the lands in which the money was invested were conveyed to the trustees themselves, but under an implied trust, that on payment of the debt conveyances should be made to Ballendine and Reveley: so that it is apprehended they amount in fact to nothing more than mortgages. There is little hope that this balance will ever be paid; an opportunity now occurs not only of making these securities produce to the public the real worth of what was advanced on them, but also of producing it in arms & implements of war, the very articles originally proposed to be obtained by it, and which of all others are most immediately essential to the public safety. But a Bill for foreclosing the trust to pass through the usual forms of proceedings in a Court of Chancery will hardly bring us relief till I hope we shall not need it.

2. The general assembly in May 1776 having determined to erect a foundry at Westham for casting ordnance appointed Commissioners for that purpose. For the Sum of £242.10, which they paid M<sup>r</sup>. Ballendine they purchased from him for situating the foundry three acres & an half of land adjacent to a Canal he was opening from Westham, and a right to deduce water from the Canal for turning a boring mill & other works necessary for the finishing the Cannon.- They were also to have free navigation down the canal to the foundry on contributing one moiety to the repairs of that part of the Canal; after it should have been once completed, as he bound himself to compleat it. They erected their foundry and found it necessary to make advances of money to Ballendine to enable him to complete his Canal & dam on which alone they depended for water. The balance due the Commonwealth on these advances is £2051-2-5 $\frac{1}{2}$  as appears by one of the accounts transmitted herewith: for securing which payments a mortgage had been taken on 46 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land the whole of the real property of the said Ballendine at that place, so that the public possessions & interests at this place are 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land with the foundry on it, a right to draw off water for working their machines for completing the Canon, a common in the navigation, paying one half the expence of keeping that part of the Canal in repair, & a mortgage on 46 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land for securing the payment of £2051-2-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

But for the State of Mr. Ballendines Dam & Canal & the prospect of obtaining water as long as he is to be depended on for it, I beg leave to refer you to the report of the same commissioners.

3. The extending navigation from Westham to Richmond, besides its other very general importance, being extremely requisite to promote the success of the proposed manufactory by reducing the difficulty & expence attending the transportation of the bulky articles of Coal, wood & other things necessary to be expended at it, and it's own very weighty produce, we were led to enquire by what means Mr. Ballendine had got foothold there and on what pretensions he founds a right of constructing the navigable canal. In 1764. the assembly passed an act authorising the opening the falls of James river by subscriptions of money from individuals and appointing Trustees to take such subscriptions. Some persons accordingly subscribed, but no appearance arising of the works, being ever compleated in this way, the assembly after waiting 8 years, to wit, 1772, passed another act for putting the business into a different train. They directed that as soon as the former & subsequent subscribers or a majority of them should think a sufficient sum raised any ten of them, being subscribers of £100 each at least, might appoint a general meeting at which a president & 11 directors should be elected, who should have power to agree with an undertaker to cut the canal proposed, provided such undertaker should first give sufficient security to perform his agreement: they gave to the adventurers authority to carry the Canal through any persons lands, paying the worth of them, allowed them certain tolls, and pointed out the precise mode in which they might transfer their shares in the undertaking, to wit, by deed executed by the president, the subscriber having first tendered his share to the directors who were to have the refusal at the same price; very considerable sums were engaged under this act: but there never was a meeting of the subscribers to elect a president & Directors, nor an undertaker employed. While this was in agitation Mr. Ballendine proposing to clear the falls of James river & the falls of Potowmack,<sup>53</sup> set on foot subscriptions for enabling him to go to England to learn how to do it. Great Sums were subscribed, he went; returned & brought some workmen. He purchased at the head of the falls of James river the 50 acres of land, three & a half of which were conveyed as beforementioned to the public for the foundery, and the other 46½ mortgaged to them. He opened a Canal through this land and then of his own authority, without any act of assembly or even an order of Court, as we are told, he made a dam across an arm of James river & drew off 50 feet width of water along his canal. In november 1777 by Petition to the assembly he informs them that the subscribers under the last act of assembly had transferred their interests to him, that he had made considerable progress in the Canal, & should finish it if he met with no interruption from those through whose lands it must pass, & prays an act might pass vesting him with the powers of the former subscribers. Had the allegation in his Petition been true, that the

<sup>53</sup>After "Potowmack" the phrase "& to open a navigable Canal from James to York rivers through the City of Wmsburg" is cancelled out in the MS.



former Subscribers had transferred their interests to him, such an act would have been unnecessary, because he would have stood on their footing; but it could not be true, because the transfer being to be executed by the president, after a tender & refusal of the share to the Company & no president having ever been elected, there could have been no such transfer to him as he alledged. I have been thus particular Sir, in order to shew you that M<sup>r</sup>. Ballendine has no legal right to the conducting the Canal which can stand in the way of the present Contract. He has an equity of redemption in the 46½ acres of land before mentioned, and so far stands on the footing of every other landholder through whose lands the Canall must pass. He prayed earnestly that their rights might be sacrificed to him, on his paying them the value: can he then with modesty now say that his rights shall not be sacrificed to others, paying him the value of the injury done him? It is now four years since he begun this Canal; he has conducted it about one twentieth part of the whole distance: and this too while his workmen were with him, & his means, if he had any, were fresh.

A very simple calculation then will inform us, that, in his hands the completion of this Work will require near a century, and then a question arises whether M<sup>r</sup>. Ballendine will live so long. I think we may fairly conclude that he will never complete it. It is right that in cases of such general importance, the interests of a few individuals should give way to the general good, full compensation being made them; and as right that M<sup>r</sup>. Ballendine's should, as those of the others whose Lands were to have been laid open to him. He has had a long enough trial to convince the whole world he never will complete it. Other Gentlemen now offer to do it within a reasonable term. As the assembly then after an eight years trial & failure of the act of 1764 made another experiment in 1772, it seems reasonable, after other seven years patience, to try yet other means. It is possible the present undertakers may not find it necessary to make use of M<sup>r</sup>. Ballendine's Canal at all, but may take out the water elsewhere. But should they find that it can be taken off nowhere else, it is submitted to the assembly, whether his having dug a Canal along grounds thro' which the navigable canal must necessarily pass, shall privilege those grounds, more than the meadows & grounds of others are privileged, and for ever obstruct the opening that river, and whether there can be any sound objection to the having in his case, as well as in those of others, a just valuation made of y<sup>e</sup> injury he will sustain by the use which shall be made of his Canal, and after withholding the £2501.2.5½ due from him to the public, on that particular account, to pay him the balance if the injury shall be found to exceed that sum.

In stating to you the several obstacles which oppose themselves to the execution of the resolution of assembly, I have been necessarily led to mention circumstances which are to be found among your own journals & acts, & of which therefore you had knowledge before. They were necessary to continue the thread of the relation so as to



render it intelligible, and are desired to be considered only as references to your own Records for more authentic and precise information.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect  
Sir

Your most obedient  
& most humble serv<sup>t</sup>

Th: JEFFERSON

[Endorsed:] Cop<sup>d</sup> for the Executive.

*(From Board of Trade Papers, Virginia State Archives.)*

In Council Oct. 30, 1779.

It is recommended to the Board of trade to take measures for the immediate purchase of necessary cloathing for the use of the Cherokee Indians wherever to be found within the state. Maj<sup>r</sup>. Martin the agent with them will be able to give them information as to the articles and quantities.

TH: JEFFERSON

*(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Saturday October 30.

The Speaker laid before the House, a letter from the Governor, on the subject of granting a brevet commission to Captain Lemair; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

\* \* \*

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, respecting the purchase of a frigate for the State, which was read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of the whole House on the state of the Commonwealth.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, stating the proceedings of the Executive on the resolutions of Assembly respecting Messrs. Penett and Company, and John Ballendine, which was read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of Propositions and Grievances.

*(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Monday, November 1.

*Resolved*, that the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be empowered to cause a small picket to be erected at some convenient place, for the securing prisoners of war; and that he also order proper vessels belonging to the State to be moored in some convenient harbor for the same purpose.

*Resolved*, That the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be empowered to appoint an assistant clerk to the Board of Council.

\* \*

*Resolved*, That the Governor and Council be desired to furnish

all soldiers who have served the time of their respective enlistments in any regiment raised to complete the quota of this Commonwealth in the continental army, with such clothing as they have not received, and was promised by law, or such sums of money in lieu thereof, as are allowed to the draughts of militia, by a resolution of June 19th, 1779.

Thursday, November 4.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, enclosing a return of the military and naval force of the Commonwealth; and the same was read and ordered to be referred to the committee of the whole House on the state of the Commonwealth.

Friday, November 5.

The Speaker laid before the House, a letter from the Governor, respecting sundry losses sustained by Mr. Martin, the present Indian agent, in the Cherokee country, and the propriety of making him compensation for the same; which was read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of Trade.

\* \* \*

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ellzey:

Mr. Speaker,- The Senate have agreed to the several resolutions for empowering the Governor, with the advice of the Council, to appoint an assistant clerk to the Board of War; for empowering the Governor, with the advice of Council, to erect a picket for securing prisoners of war; and respecting the subsistence money to the State troops.

Saturday, November 6.

The Speaker laid before the House, a letter from the Governor, enclosing a return of Maj. Nelson's corps of cavalry; which was read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of the whole House on the State of the Commonwealth.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lee:

Mr. Speaker,- The Senate have agreed to the resolution for appointing Meriwether Smith, Esq. a member of the Privy Council or Council of State.

*Resolved*, That the Governor be desired to issue a proclamation, appointing a day for prayer and thanksgiving agreeable to the recommendation of Congress, dated the 20th of October, 1779.

*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to refuse the offer made him of the frigate by Colonel Knoblauch,<sup>54</sup> she being improperly built for a ship of war, and too large, and will sail at too great expense for a merchantman.

*Resolved*, That the Governor and Council be desired to appoint some proper person to state and settle the accounts of this State with the Continent, upon such terms as they shall judge reasonable.

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<sup>54</sup>Col. Knoblauch's affairs are detailed in "Journals of the Continental Congress," XIV, 934 *et seq* [August 7, 1779].

GOV. JEFFERSON TO .....

(*From Virginia State Archives.*)

Wmsburg Nov<sup>r</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup> 1779.

Sir,

I am to ask the favor of you to give notice to the Officers recommended by you for the Western Battalions that as soon as one half the quota of one of them is raised and delivered by you, he shall be entitled to the Commission for which he was recommended, as soon as that quota is complete and half the next raised another shall be entitled to his commission: and so on where there are more. You will be so good as to decide between the Officers by Lot which shall be first called into Service, he upon whom the first Lot falls is to receive the men from you, til he gets his half quota, then to march them to the Barracks in Albemarle, After which he who draws the second Lot is to receive the remaining half of the first quota and the half of his own quota when he will become entitled to his Commission and will march them on to the same rendezvous. The last half quota you must send on under a Sergeant as the Commissioned officers will have left you. Lieut. Colo. Crocket is appointed to the Command of the Battalion of which your men will be. Money for their subsistence from the time you deliver them to the Officer til he shall have carried them to their rendezvous will be Lodged with Colo. Sampson Matthews of Augusta. The Subsistence account previous to their delivery to the Officer you will settle with the Auditors here.

I am Sir

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

(*From Board of Trade Papers, Virginia State Archives.*)

In Council Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 79

The Board of trade are requested to direct that Major Martin <sup>55</sup> be furnished at the big island with 1000 lb iron 100 lb Steel & a Set of Smiths Tools for y<sup>e</sup> Cherokee nation. Also 100 Gallons of good Whiskey or rum.

A Copy

Arch: Blair.C.C.

(*From the Journal of the Continental Congress, November 8, 1779.*)

A letter, of 26, [October] from Colonel Brodhead, at Pittsburgh, was read, informing that some of the inhabitants of Yoghiagania and Ohio Counties had crossed the Ohio, and made small improvements on the Indians' land from the river Muskingum to Fort M'Intosh, and

<sup>55</sup>In a letter of Martin written to Gov. Caswell from Halifax, 19 Nov., 1779 ("State Records of North Carolina," XIV, 226), he states: "Some parts of Gov. Jefferson's letter, as he informs me, he refers to me to acquaint you, which respects the Long Island on Holdson's (*sic*) River, that part or tract of land the Indians in every treaty have reserved to themselves \* \* \* I earnestly beg you will send me an answer to Gov. Jefferson's letter as soon as possible."

30 miles up the branches of the Ohio river; and that he had ordered the trespassers to be apprehended and the huts to be destroyed:

*Ordered*, That a letter be written to the governor of Virginia, enclosing a copy of Colonel Brodhead's letter, and requesting his excellency to endeavour to prevent a repetition of the trespasses mentioned in it.

*(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Monday, November 8.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, enclosing an extract of a letter from Col. Shepherd, respecting incursions on the Indian lands upon the Ohio, and also a memorial and proposition thereupon, made to the executive by Capt. Alexander Dick; which were read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of the whole House on the state of the Commonwealth.

*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

War Office Williamsburg Novem<sup>r</sup>. 8. 1779.

The Board of War, are of opinion that John Peyton esq<sup>r</sup>. who was appointed Cloathier General to the Troops of this State by the Assembly should immediately proceed to Camp, there to receive of the Continental Cloathier General the proportion of Cloathing allowed by Congress and issue them agreeable to the directions of the Officer commanding the Virginia Line; and the Board are further of opinion, and beg leave to recommend to the Executive to add to the Cloathiers Duty with an addition to his Salary the issuing of all stores, and cloathing sent in by the Board<sup>s</sup> of War and Trade, for the use of the Troops of the State of Virginia, to be issued agreeable to instructions from the Board of War—The Board are the more fully convinced of the necessity of uniting those two appointments, as the duties of M<sup>r</sup>. Moss, the State Agent, are so comprehensive that it will be impossible for him to Attend the Army, to issue the cloathing and Stores allowed by the Assembly, for the more comfortable Subsistance of the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Line.

(signed)

JAMES INNES  
W<sup>m</sup>. NELSON  
SAM<sup>l</sup> GRIFFIN  
JAS. BARRON.

In Council Novem<sup>r</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup> 1779.

M<sup>r</sup>. Peyton Clothier General is directed to repair to the Grand Army there to receive and issue to the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Line all Cloathing and Stores for them that shall be put into his hands either by the Continental Cloathier General or the Continental State Agent. If the salary annexed to his Office by the Assembly is insufficient, to them the application must be made.

THO<sup>s</sup> JEFFERSON



GOV. JEFFERSON TO BERNADO DE GALVEZ,  
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA.<sup>56</sup>*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*Williamsburg November 8<sup>th</sup> 1779.

Sir,

By M<sup>r</sup> Lindsay who was sent from our County Illinois on the Mississippi to new Orleans and lately arrived here on his return by the way of Havanna, we hear that Col. Rogers had left New Orleans and proceeded up the Mississippi. We are anxiously expecting by him your Excellency's answer to the Letters of January 14 1778 by Col. Rogers and January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1778 by Captain Young from Governor Henry to whom I had the Honor of succeeding on his Resignation. The accession of his most Catholic Majesty, since the Date of those Letters to the Hostilities carrying on by the confederate powers of France and North america against Great Britain, thereby adding to their efforts, the weight of your Powerfull and Wealthy Empire, has given us all the certainty of a happy Issue to the present Contest of which human Events will admit. Our Vicinity to the State over which you immediately preside; the direct channel of commerce by the River Mississippi, the nature of those Commodities with which we can reciprocally furnish each other, point out the advantages which may result from a close connection, and correspondence, for which on our part the best Foundations are laid by a grateful Sense of the Favors we have received at your Hands. Notwithstanding the pressure of the present War on our people, they are lately beginning to extend their Settlements rapidly on the Waters of the Mississippi; and we have reason to believe, that on the Ohio particularly, and the Branches immediately communicating with it, there will in the Course of another Year, be such a number of Settlers, as to render the Commerce an object worth your notice. From New Orleans alone can they be tolerably supplied with necessaries of European Manufacture, and thither they will carry in Exchange Staves and Peltry immediately, and Flour, pork and Beef, as soon as they shall have somewhat opened their Lands. For their Protection from the Indians, we are obliged to send and station among them, a considerable armed Force; the providing of which with cloathing, and the Friendly Indians with necessaries, becomes a matter of great Difficulty with us. For the smaller Force we have hitherto kept up at Kaskaskia on the Mississippi we have contracted a considerable Debt at New Orleans with M<sup>r</sup> Pollock, besides what is due to your State for the Supplies they have generously

<sup>56</sup>On May 4, Oliver Pollock wrote to John Todd, county-licutenant of Illinois, informing him that Gov. Galvez had captured Mobile, and was besieging Pensacola, and had been created a field marshal. In a postscript of May 26 Pollock expressed his regret that Galvez, not having received in time the support of the expected fleet from Havana, had abandoned the siege of Pensacola and returned to New Orleans. He had applied to Galvez for pecuniary assistance without success.—“Calendar of State Papers,” (Va.), I, 347.

Later, however, Gov. Galvez did succeed in capturing Pensacola. East Florida thus passed under the control of the Spaniards, as West Florida had already done.

furnished, and a Number of Bills from Col. Clarke now lying under protest in New Orleans. We learn by M<sup>r</sup> Lindsay that M<sup>r</sup> Pollock is likely to be greatly distressed, if we do not immediately make him Remittances. The most unfavorable Harvest ever known since the Settlement of this Country has put it out of our Power to send flour, obliging us for our own Subsistence to purchase it from the neighboring States of Maryland and Pennsylvania to whom we have until this Year furnished large Quantities. The Want of Salt disables us from preparing Beef and Pork for your market. In this Situation of things, we cannot but contemplate the distress of that Gentleman brought on him by Services rendered us, with the utmost Concern. We are endeavoring by Remittances of Tobacco to establish a Fund in France to which we may apply to a certain extent. But the Casualties to which those Tobaccos are liable in their Transportation, render the Dependence less certain than we could wish for M<sup>r</sup> Pollock's relief; and besides, that we have other very intensive occasions for them, young as we are in Trade and Manufactures, and engaged in war with a Nation whose power on the Sea, has been such as to intercept a great proportion of the Supplies we have attempted to import from Europe, you will not wonder to hear, that we find great Difficulties in procuring either money or Commodities to answer the Calls of our Armies, and therefore that it would be a Circumstance of vast relief to us, if we could leave our deposits in France for the Calls of that part of our State which lies on the Atlantic, and procure a Suspension of the Demands from Your Quarter, for supplies to our Western Forces one, Two or three Years, or such longer Time as could be obtained. With this view Governor Henry in his Letters of January 14 and 26<sup>th</sup> 1778 solicited from your Nation a loan of money, which your Excellency was so kind as to undertake to communicate to Your Court. The Success of this application we expect to learn by Col. Rogers, and should not till then have troubled you with the same Subject, had we not heard of M<sup>r</sup> Pollock's Distress, As we flatter ourselves that the Application thro' the intervention of your Excellency may have been successful, and that you may be authorized to advance for us some loans in money. I take the Liberty of soliciting you in such case, to advance for us to M<sup>r</sup> Pollock sixty-five Thousand Eight Hundred fourteen & 5/8 Dollars. Encompassed as we are with Difficulties, we may fail in doing as much as our Gratitude would prompt us to, in speedily replacing these aids, But most assuredly nothing in that way within our power will be left undone. Our particular prospects for doing it, and the time it may take to accomplish the whole, shall be the Subject of another Letter, as soon as I shall have the Honor to learn from You whether we can be supplied and to what extent.

By Col. Rogers I hope also to learn your Excellency's Sentiments on the other proposition in the same Letters, for the establishment of corresponding Posts on Your Side and ours of the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Ohio, for the promotion of Commerce Between us. After returning our most cordial thanks to your Excellency for the friendly

Disposition you have personally shown to us, and assuring you of our profound Respect and Esteem, beg Leave to subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's

most obedient

and most humble Servant.

(signed)

TH. JEFFERSON

His Excellency

Don Bernardo Di Galvez

[Endorsed:-] Copy of Governor Jefferson's Letter to Governor Galvez asking a loan of money for the State.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE FRENCH MINISTER,  
THE CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE.<sup>57</sup>

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 273.)

In Council, Nov. 10, 1779.

Sir,-

In compliance with the request which you were pleased to lay before us, I am now to authorize the forces of his most Christian majesty to land in such place, and his vessels to withdraw into such harbors of this Commonwealth as the Admiral or other Commanding Officer shall think proper, and to procure houses for the purpose of hospitals. In determining on the place of his debarkation & encampment, he will be pleased to follow his own judgment; receiving from us this information that the farther he can withdraw his vessels up our rivers into the country, the more it would be in our power to assist in defending them against any attack from the enemy.

York river according to our present idea would offer itself as the most defensible, but in this, &c., the board of war will issue orders for their immediate supply of provisions from our magazines, and will aid them with such of our vessels as may be necessary for procuring further supplies and landing their sick & other purposes.

These general resources seem to be all we can take for their present relief, till their wants shall become particularly laid before us. We beg leave to take this early occasion to assure you that we shall receive into our state the forces of his most Christian majesty with the utmost cordiality and spare nothing which shall be within our power to aid and accomodate them in whatever situation they shall choose.

But in this or any other we greatly apprehend the difficulties and distresses which may arise from the want of proper houses for hospitals.

I shall take great pleasure in showing on every occasion which shall occur, my personal gratitude and affection to your nation, and the particular esteem with which I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble ser't.

To the French Minister.

(Chevalier de la Luzerne)

<sup>57</sup>The Chevalier de la Luzerne, with the secretary to the commission, M. Marbois, had arrived in Philadelphia late in September, as successor to the Sieur Gerard, minister plenipotentiary from his Most Christian Majesty.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. CASWELL OF  
NORTH CAROLINA.*(From the "State Records of North Carolina," XIV, 220.)*

Williamsburg, Nov 11, 1779

Sir,

I have lately received Messages and information from the Cherokee Nation of Indians, painting their nakedness and general distress for want of European Goods so strongly as to call for pity and all possible relief, their several settlements being contiguous to the two Carolinas and to Virginia. They have at times received supplies I believe from each of these States. Their great numbers, however, and the extent of their settlements when taken into view by any one of our States bear a discouraging proportion to the moderate Aids we can singly furnish and render a general distribution of them very troublesome.

These considerations have induced me to take the liberty of submitting to your Excellency a proposition (as I do to Gov. Rutledge also by a letter of this day's date) to divide the trouble and task of supplying them among our three States. The division of those Indians into Southern, Middle and Northern Settlements renders the apportionment of them obvious. The protecting from intrusion the lands of the Southern Cherokees and furnishing them with Goods seems most convenient to South Carolina; the same friendly Offices to the Middle Settlements seem most within your power, and the Northern Settlements are most convenient to us. The attachment which each settlement will by these means acquire to the particular State which is its immediate patron and benefactor, will be a bond of peace and will lead to a separation of that powerful people. If this distribution should happily meet the approbation of your Excellency & Governor Rutledge, we shall do everything in our power for discharging our duties to the Northern Settlement. Knowing your disposition to have the people protected in the possession of their unpurchased lands, I also take the liberty of mentioning to you that the old Tapel in a late Message to me, complains of intrusions on their lands, and particularly of some attempts to take from them the great Island. This, by the late extension of our boundary, falling, as I understand, within your State, removes the application for protection to your Excellency, whose power alone can extend to the removal of intrusions from thence. As to so much of their lands as lie within our latitudes, as well as the lands of other Indians generally, our Assembly now sitting has in contemplation to authorize the Executive to send patrol of the Military through them from time to time to destroy the habitations which shall be erected in them by intruders. The bearer of this letter is a Major Martin, our agent residing with the Cherokees, who will be able to inform your Excellency of any particulars you may wish to learn. We have reason to believe him a good kind of Man and worthy of credit.

Intending to fix a post and small garrison in Powell's Valley, we have ordered part of a Battalion thither to erect a Stockade, but as it would be proper for them first to Assemble together (being not



yet embodied) at a nearer station, and there being a fort and houses at the great Island, we have taken the liberty of appointing their Rendezvous at that fort, 'till there shall be so many embodied as may proceed with safety to Powell's Valley. We have reason to believe that their stay at that place will be very short and hope it will not be disagreeable to your Excellency. The necessity of immediate orders put it out of our power to apply for your previous approbation. We consider the measure still, however, subject to your pleasure, and therefore take this early opportunity of acquainting you with it.

I have the honor to be,

With the greatest respect and esteem,

Your Excellency's Mo. ob. humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO GOVERNOR RUTLEDGE,  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

(From *Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.*)

Williamsburgh, Nov. 11. 1779

Sir

The bearer hereof Major Martin, our agent with the Northern or Upper Cherokees, comes to Charlestown to see if there be a possibility of purchasing there any goods to supply their wants. give me leave to hope he will meet with your Excellency's patronage in the execution of this business. their present distresses are so great that we have bought up every thing proper for them in our own country without regard to price. this however goes but a little way towards providing for them. long accustomed to the use of European manufactures, they are as incapable of returning to their habits of skins & furs as we are, and find their wants the less tolerable as they are occasioned by a war the event of which is scarcely interesting to them. I am so far persuaded of the attention your Excellency has paid to these people & the supplies you have furnished them, that the proposition I have the honour of submitting to your consideration (as I have done to that of Gov<sup>r</sup>. Caswell also by a letter of this day's date) that we should divide this trouble among us, will be rather a matter of relief to you. the division of the Cherokees into Southern, Middle, & Northern settlements, points out a division of the cares and expenses of patronizing them among the three states of South & North Carolina & Virginia. the protecting from intrusion the lands of the Southern Cherokees & furnishing them with goods seems most convenient to you, the same friendly offices to the middle settlements will be so to North Carolina; and the Northern settlements to us. the attachment which each settlement will by these means acquire to the particular state under whose patronage it is, will be a bond of peace, and will lead to a separation of that powerful people. if this distribution should happily meet the approbation of your Excellency & of Gov<sup>r</sup> Caswell, we shall do every thing in our power for discharging our duties to the Northern settlement. our assembly, now sitting, has in contemplation to authorize the executive to send patrols of the military from

time to time through the unpurchased lands of the Indians, within our own latitudes to destroy the habitations which shall be erected on them by intruders.

It has been matter of real mortification to me that the whole of the troops ordered from this state on the Southern service under Gen<sup>l</sup> Scott have not yet been marched on. the business of recruiting in this country being difficult, the assembly in their act under which these men were raised, as an encouragement, declared that they should receive every article of clothing enumerated in the act before they should leave the state, & that to march them out of it before they should receive them, should amount to a discharge. finding it impossible to procure all these articles, we offered liberal compensation in money to those who would march on without their clothes. this prevailed with so many as composed the first division which went on to you in June. our efforts since that enabled us to equip about as many more which accordingly marched last month. but those still remaining are as yet unequipped we are continuing our endeavours to procure the enumerated articles in order to make good the legislative engagements to them, and thereby authorize the marching of them also.<sup>57a</sup>

I have the honour to be with great esteem

Your Excellency's, most obed<sup>t</sup>

& most humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

[Endorsed:]

Gov<sup>r</sup> Rutlige

No. 7 Recorded Nov<sup>r</sup> 1779

(From the *Virginia Gazette*, November 20, 1779.)

By his Excellency Thomas Jefferson, Esq; Governour or Chief Magistrate of the commonwealth of *Virginia*.

### PROCLAMATION

Whereas the Honourable the General Congress, impressed with a grateful sense of the goodness of Almighty God, in blessing the greater part of this extensive continent with plentiful harvests, crowning our arms with repeated successes, conducting us hitherto safely through the perils with which we have been encompassed and manifesting in multiplied instances his divine care of these infant states, hath thought proper by their act of the 20th day of October last, to recommend to the several states that Thursday the 9th of December next be appointed a day of publick and solemn thanksgiving and prayer, which act is in these words to wit:

"Whereas it becomes us humbly to approach the throne of Almighty God, with gratitude and praise, for the wonders which his goodness has wrought in conducting our forefathers to this western

<sup>57a</sup>This is evidently the first draft of the letter actually sent. It is in Jefferson's own handwriting. Facsimile of it appears opposite this page. The letter is interesting not only on account of its contents but because of the evidence it furnishes of Jefferson's method of work.

world, for his protection to them and to their posterity amidst difficulties and dangers; for raising us their children from deep distress, to be numbered among the nations of the earth; and for arming the hands of just and mighty Princes for their deliverance; and especially for that he hath been pleased to grant us the enjoyment of health and so to order the revolving seasons, that the earth hath produced her increase in abundance, blessing the labours of the husbandman, and spreading plenty through the land; that he hath prospered our arms and those of our ally, been a shield to our troops in the hour of danger, pointed their swords to victory, and led them in triumph over the bulwarks of the foe; that he hath gone with those who went out into the wilderness against the savage tribes; that he hath stayed the hand of the spoiler, and turned back his meditated destruction; that he hath prospered our commerce, and given success to those who fought the enemy on the face of the deep; and above all, that he hath diffused the glorious light of the gospel, whereby through the merits of our gracious Redeemer, we may become the heirs of the eternal glory. Therefore,

Resolved, that it be recommended to the several states to appoint THURSDAY the 9th of December next, to be a day of publick and solemn THANKSGIVING to Almighty God, for his mercies, and of PRAYER, for the continuance of his favour and protection to these United States; to beseech him that he would be graciously pleased to influence our publick Councils, and bless them with wisdom from on high, with unanimity, firmness, and success; that he would grant to his church, the plentiful effusions of divine grace, and pour out his holy spirit on all Ministers of the gospel; that he would bless and prosper the means of education, and spread the light of christian knowledge through the remotest corners of the earth; that he would smile upon the labours of his people, and cause the earth to bring forth her fruits in abundance, that we may with gratitude and gladness enjoy them; that he would take into his holy protection, our illustrious ally, give him victory over his enemies, and render him finally great, as the father of his people, and the protector of the rights of mankind; that he would graciously be pleased to turn the hearts of our enemies, and to dispence the blessings of peace to contending nations.

That he would in mercy look down upon us, pardon all our sins, and receive us into his favour; and finally, that he would establish the independance of these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue, and support and protect them in the enjoyment of peace, liberty and safety."

I do therefore by authority from the General Assembly issue this my proclamation, hereby appointing Thursday the 9th day of December next, a day of publick and solemn thanksgiving and prayer to Almighty God earnestly recommending to all the good people of this commonwealth, to set apart the said day for those purposes, and to the several Ministers of religion to meet their respective societies thereon, to assist them in their prayers, edify them with their discourses, and generally to perform the sacred duty of their function, proper for the occasion.

Given under my hand and the seal of the commonwealth, at Williamsburg, this 11th day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1779, and in the fourth of the commonwealth.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.<sup>58</sup>

(From the Virginia State Archives, Board of War Papers.)

In Council Nov. 13 1779

It is the sense of the board that these goods be purchased in any state & particularly in South Carolina and that the board of trade authorize the agent for this Commonwealth in Charlestown to draw bills on their board for payment. the Governor directs accordingly.

TH: JEFFERSON

Cloathing for the Cherokee Indians.

(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)

Saturday, November 13.

*Resolved, nemine contra dicente*, That a remonstrance<sup>59</sup> be drawn up to the Hon. the American Congress, firmly asserting the rights of this Commonwealth to its own territory, complaining of their having received petitions from certain persons, styling themselves the Indiana and Vandalia companies, upon claims which not only interfere with the laws and internal policy, but tend to subvert the government of this Commonwealth, and introduce general confusion; and expressly excepting and protesting against the jurisdiction of Congress therein, as unwarranted by the fundamental principles of the confederation.

*Resolved, nemine contra dicente*, That the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be empowered and required to use the most effectual means for apprehending and securing any person or persons within this Commonwealth, who shall attempt to subvert the government thereof, or set up any separate government within the same, that such person or persons may be brought to trial, according to due course of law.

\* \* \*

*Resolved*, That his excellency the Governor, for the time being, shall, if he thinks fit, have the liberty of exporting annually in the State vessels, twenty hogsheads of tobacco, and of importing their proceeds in necessaries for the use of his family, freight free; but not more than four hogsheads shall be exported at a time in one vessel.

<sup>58</sup>In the original the whole proclamation is printed in italics.

<sup>59</sup>For the remonstrance of the General Assembly of Virginia see Journal of Friday, December 10, 1779.

Temple Bodley, in his "George Rogers Clark," not only the best biography of Clark so far to appear, but the best history of our "West" in Revolutionary days, says (pp. 21 & 22) of the Indiana and Vandalia companies that their claims were "based on the most audacious and powerfully supported fraud in all American history." He adds in a footnote (p. 22):

"Detailed accounts of it will appear in the author's *History of the Revolutionary West in Diplomacy and Politics*, in preparation, and in his *History of Kentucky*, Vol. I, to be issued by S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON,  
PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(From Papers of the Continental Congress, 71, I, 287.)

Wmsburg, Nov<sup>r</sup>. 16th, 1779.

Sir

Colo. Bland being about to retire from his Command at the Barracks in Albemarle, and desirous to withdraw at the same time the party of his horse which has hitherto been Stationed there, wished that we should supply their place by sending thither about twenty or five and twenty of the horse of this State. Our horse being as yet not very well trained, the Officers represented that it would much impede that work, and leave the remaining fragment in a very awkward situation should we divide a troop. We have therefore ordered a complete troop to that Station; but wish congress would be pleased to notify as soon as convenient whether they approve of this or not.—

We have hitherto been unable to raise more than about the half of a battalion of infantry for guarding the Convention Troops at the same Post. The deficiencies have been endeavoured to be supplied with Militia. Congress have had too much experience of the radical defects and inconveniences of militia service to need any enumerating them, our Assembly now sitting, have in contemplation to put the garrison regiment on such a footing as gives us hopes of filling it by the next summer. In the meantime a Battalion which we are raising for our immediate defence may be spared to do garrison duty this winter, and as but a small part of it is raised, as yet, and not probable that it will be completed within any short time, we suppose that with Colo. Taylors regiment it will not exceed the number required to guard the Troops. I would observe to you that the Captains and Subalterns of this new Battalion are not to be called into service but as their men are raised; so that the burthen which has sometimes been incurred of paying Officers without men need not be apprehended in this instance. We have therefore Ordered this Battalion to rendezvous at the Barracks and do duty there this winter, and that the Battalion should be discharged in proportion as these come in, on this measure also we ask the pleasure [of] congress.

The appointment of a successor to Colo. Bland will give us great satisfaction and we hope congress will take it into early consideration. The duties of that post call for respectable Abilities and an uncommon vigilance and firmness of Character.<sup>60</sup>

[On November 11 Congress *Resolved*, That General Washington be immediately applied to, to send forward to the State of South Carolina the whole of the North Carolina Brigade and all the Virginia troops now at Headquarters, if the latter can possibly be spared without endangering the safety of his army; but if the whole cannot be spared, then as many of them as can.

\* \* \* \*

*Resolved*, That the governors of Virginia and North Carolina be again requested to use their utmost exertions to have the whole of the

<sup>60</sup>Read in Congress on December 7, and referred to the Board of War.

troops ordered from their respective states, sent forward without loss of time to join General Lincoln's army, and that the troops be ordered away as they can, from time to time, be collected.]

[Below a communication from the War Office, dated November 16, which began: "The Board of War had under Consideration the present State of the Westham Foundry, and several papers to them referred relative to a Contract entered into between Mr. Henry the late Governour in Behalf of this State and Mr. David Ross to take of the said Ross two hundred and fifty tons of iron for the use of the public foundry \* \* \* \*"] Gov Jefferson wrote:]

In Council Nov. 18.

The consideration of this postponed until the Assembly shall determine whether to ratify, or not, the Contract with Penet & co. by which, according to a resolution of the last session, the foundry was to be conveyed to them.

TH: JEFFERSON.

[Indorsed:]

Representation Board of War to the Executive to be heard on Wednesday the first of December 1779.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(*From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.*)

[Nov. 23, 1779.]

Sir

There is reason to believe that the appointment of a Consul <sup>61</sup> to reside in this State on the part of his most Christian majesty either has been already or will shortly be made. I must submit to the general Assembly the expediency of considering whether our Laws have settled with precision the prerogatives and jurisdiction to which, such a person is entitled by the usages of nations; and putting the Office on the footing they wou'd wish it to rest.- The enclosed memorial from a subject of the same prince is also perhaps worthy the attention of the Assembly. The expediting judiciary proceedings wherein foreigners are concerned, who come to make only a short stay among us, seems expedient for the preservation of a good understanding with them and for the encouragement of Commerce.- The Executive received from Congress some time ago copies of the several proceedings which had taken place between a Subject of the crown of Portugal and the Commander of an American privateer; a part owner of the privateer being a Citizen of this State. They were accompanied by some resolutions of Congress desiring that the executive would so far interpose as to have reparation made to the foreigner whose vessel had been taken, pyratically as they supposed, and to have the Offenders proceeded against criminally. The case with all the documents

<sup>61</sup>On July 29 there had been read in Congress a letter, of the 27th from the Minister of France, enclosing an appointment of Sieur d'Anmours to be vice-consul in the State of Virginia.

transmitted was submitted to the Attorney General for his opinion which he has lately given us, and I now inclose it. from that you will perceive that if the act complained of were piracy or should any future act of piracy be committed by any of our Citizens, there is no judicature within this State before which it could be tried. Whether the establishment of such a judicature may not be necessary for the preservation of peace with foreign nations is now submitted to the legislature. I have the honour to be

with the greatest respect

TH: JEFFERSON

(*From Journal of the House of Delegates.*)

Wednesday, November 24.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, enclosing a memorial of Mr. De Francey respecting a commercial transaction between the executive and his principal Mr. De Beaumarchais, with other papers on the subject thereof, which were read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of the whole House on the state of the Commonwealth.

\* \* \*

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, requesting that the vouchers returned by the commissioners of the Gun Manufactory at Fredericksburg, on the settlement of their accounts, may be furnished to the executive, to be by them used as vouchers in adjusting the account of the Commonwealth against the continent, which was read.

Ordered, That the papers desired in the said letter be sent to the Governor.

(*From Journal of the Board of Trade.*)<sup>62</sup>

Saturday the 27th November 1779.

Ordered that the following representations be made to the Executive

"We beg leave to hand to His Excellency in Council the proposals of Mr. Raleigh Colston for supplying the State with Salt. We should be happy in embracing every means in our power for securing this essential necessary, but our present stock of Tobacco & prospect of encreasing it in the course of the next year, merely by purchases, will by no means enable us to engage for payment of any considerable Quantity of Salt in Tobo especially as we depend on this principally for securing the necessary supplies of Cloathing & Military Stores for the Army. We hope there is a sufficient Quantity of Salt laid in for the use of the Army in the Course of the Winter, and, if our trading vessels are so fortunate to escape the Enemy, they will each bring five or six hundred bushels, which we suppose will be fully sufficient

<sup>62</sup>The MS. Journal of the Board of Trade, preserved in the V. S. A., in a volume entitled "Papers concerning the Army of the Revolution," Vol. I, begins on the above date and extend to April 7, 1780. Only items of moment and those that concern the executive have been copied for this work.

for the next Summer's Consumption- The Act establishing the board of Trade<sup>63</sup> directs that We shall import Salt for the use of the Inhabitants as well as the Army but your Honorable Board must be fully sensible that our Means were not equal to it, and that We have been obliged to part with a considerable share of the Tob<sup>o</sup> we have been able to purchase to secure Salt even for the Army. We cannot but be of opinion if this Matter was represented to the Legislature by your Honb. Board, the expediency of putting a Quantity of Tobacco into our Hands to enable us to purchase this Necessary Article, must be clearly seen."

To which the Executive gave the following Answer.

In Council Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1779.

The board disapproves of the contract proposed.

TH. JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From "*Memoir*" (1829), I, 170, 171.)

Williamsburg, November 28, <sup>64</sup> 1779.

*Sir,*

Your Excellency's letter on the discriminations which have been heretofore made, between the troops raised within this State, and considered as part of our quota, and those not so considered, was delivered me four days ago. I immediately laid it before the Assembly, who thereupon came to the resolution I now do myself the honor of enclosing you. The resolution of Congress, of March 15, 1779, which you were so kind as to enclose, was never known in this State till a few weeks ago, when we received printed copies of the Journals of Congress. It would be a great satisfaction to us, to receive an exact return of all the men we have in Continental service, who come within the description of the resolution, together with our State troops in Continental service. Colonel Cabell was so kind as to send me a return of the Continental regiments, commanded by Lord Sterling, of the first and second Virginia State regiments, and of Colonel Gist's regiment. Besides these are the following; viz. Colonel Harrison's regiment of artillery, Colonel Baylor's horse, Colonel Bland's horse, General Scott's new levies, part of which are gone to Carolina, and part are here, Colonel Gibson's regiment stationed on the Ohio, Heath and Ohara's independent companies at the same stations, Colonel Taylor's regiment of guards to the Convention troops: of these, we have a return. There may, possibly, be others not occurring to me. A return of all these would enable us to see what proportion of the Continental army, is contributed by us. We have, at present, very pressing calls to send additional numbers of men to the southward. No inclination is wanting in either the Legislature or Executive, to

<sup>63</sup>Hening, X, 15.

<sup>64</sup>In Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*" the date of this letter is given as "November 20."



aid them or strengthen you: but we find it very difficult to procure men. I herewith transmit to your Excellency some recruiting commissions, to be put into such hands as you think proper, for re-enlisting such of our soldiery as are not already engaged for the war. The Act of Assembly authorising these instructions, requires that the men enlisted, should be reviewed and received by an officer to be appointed for that purpose; a caution, less necessary in the case of men now actually in service, and, therefore, doubtless, able bodied, than in the raising new recruits. The direction, however, goes to all cases, and, therefore we must trouble your Excellency with the appointment of one or more officers of review. Mr. Moss, our agent, receives orders which accompany this, to pay the bounty money and recruiting money, and to deliver the clothing. We have, however, certain reason to fear he has not any great sum of money on hand: and it is absolutely out of our power, at this time, to supply him, or to say with certainty, when we shall be able to do it. He is instructed to note his acceptances under the draughts, and to assure payment as soon as we shall have it in our power to furnish him, as the only substitute for money. Your Excellency's directions to the officer of review, will probably procure us the satisfaction of being informed, from time to time, how many men shall be re-inlisted.

By Colonel Mathews, I informed your Excellency fully of the situation of Governor Hamilton, and his companions. Lamothe and Dejean have given their paroles, and are at Hanover Court-House: Hamilton, Hay and others, are still obstinate; therefore, still in close confinement, though their irons have never been on, since your second letter on the subject. --I wrote full information on this matter to General Phillips also, from whom I had received letters on the subject. I cannot, in reason, believe, that the enemy, on receiving this information, either from yourself or General Phillips, will venture to impose any new cruelties on our officers in captivity with them. Yet their conduct, hitherto, has been most successfully prognosticated by reversing the conclusions of right reason. It is, therefore, my duty, as well as it was my promise to the Virginia captives, to take measures for discovering any change which may be made in their situation. For this purpose, I must apply for your Excellency's interposition. I doubt not but you have an established mode of knowing, at all times, through your commissary of prisoners, the precise state of those in the power of the enemy. I must, therefore, pray you to put into motions, any such means you have, for obtaining knowledge of the situation of the Virginia officers in captivity. If you should think proper, as I could wish, to take upon yourself to retaliate any new sufferings which may be imposed on them, it will be more likely to have the weight, and to restore the unhappy on both sides, to that benevolent treatment for which all should wish.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

TH: JEFFERSON.

(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)

Monday, November 29.

[The House, in committee of the whole on the state of the Commonwealth]

*Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, That the civil and military establishments of the Illinois ought to be augmented and supported, and that the Governor be empowered to procure a credit in New Orleans for that purpose; and that this House will make good, and provide proper funds for the fulfilling any engagements, that he, with the advice of the Council, may enter into, to answer that desirable end.*

(From the Virginia Gazette, December 11, 1779.)

By his Excellency THOMAS JEFFERSON, Esq; Governor or Chief Magistrate of the commonwealth of VIRGINIA.

#### A PROCLAMATION

Whereas the exportation of provisions from this state will be attended with manifest injury to the United States, by supplying the enemy, and by rendering it difficult for the publick agents and contractors to procure supplies for the *American* troops, and will moreover give encouragement to engrossers and monopolizers to prosecute their baneful practices, I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council of State, to issue this my proclamation for laying an embargo on provisions, *viz.* On all beef, pork, bacon, wheat, *Indian* corn, pease or other grain, or flour or meal made of the same; to continue until the first of *May* next. And I do hereby strictly prohibit all mariners, masters, and commanders of vessels, and all other persons whatsoever within this state, from loading on board any vessel for exportation, and from exporting all or any of the above species of provisions, by land or water, from the date hereof, during the term aforesaid, under pain of incurring the penalties inflicted by the act of Assembly intituled *An act to empower the Governour and Council to lay an embargo for a limited time*, except as in the said act is excepted. And I do hereby strictly charge and command all naval officers and others, in their respective departments, to exert their best endeavours to the end that this embargo be strictly observed.

GIVEN under my hand the 30th day of November, 1779

THOMAS JEFFERSON

(From Virginia State Archives.)

Cover of letter, which is missing.

[Endorsed:] Governors Letter 8<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1779 enclosing Le Chevalier De Anmours Memorial:

Referred to Commee of whole on Commerce Bill.

D'Anmours' letter is dated Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 1779.

(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)

Monday, December 6.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly approve the answer given by the Governor and Council to the memorial of Mr. De Francey, respecting the balance due to Mr. De Beaumarchais, on the cargo of the *Fier Roderique*, purchased for the use of the Commonwealth; they are truly sensible of the merits of Mr. De Beaumarchais, and of the services he has rendered the United States, and will be ready on all proper occasions to testify their regard for him, but the present subject being a matter merely mercantile, they cannot, consistently with the duty they owe their constituents, consent to the demands made by his agent, being perfectly satisfied, that the goods were bought at the highest price given at that time on the continent. The agent here ever had it in his power to dispose of the balance in the purchase of tobacco, and thereby not only save his employer from loss, but in reality to have gained him great profit, and his not doing it appears to have arisen from the prospect he entertained of gaining by delay; but if this matter was totally out of the question, the complying with the memorial would probably bring the Commonwealth into great distress, by fixing a precedent, which might be brought against it in future, for making good the depreciation of money to all public creditors, but more especially to those who have placed their money in the loan office, and may think fit to call it out; yet notwithstanding these objections to the demand in general, the Assembly, ever willing to do justice, have no objection to the executive's reconsidering the account, and if they shall be of opinion that the alteration of the contract respecting the five hundred hogsheads of tobacco, delivered at Alexandria, has really been attended with loss to Mr. De Beaumarchais, that they give credit in the account for the sum lost, and that they give credit also for the sum charged on the article of cards short delivered. The price demanded for the cannon left by the *Fier Roderique* on the beach of York, is so amazingly above what was ever heard of before, that the Assembly could by no means advise the executive to be concerned with them, even if their demands for them, were much greater than they at present are. The executive may form a just estimate of the value of cannon by adverting to the price given by his Excellency Doctor Franklin for those shipped by him for the use of the continent, which were delivered in America by ships freighted for that purpose at a pound and a half of tobacco for every pound weight of cannon.<sup>6 5</sup>

[The agreement of the Senate was announced on December 8].

(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)

Friday the 10th December 1779.

Present

Thomas Whiting  
Dun Rose esq<sup>r</sup>s

The Executive approving the terms offered by M<sup>r</sup>. Mennitree-  
for Soap & Candles.

<sup>6 5</sup>See "Official Letters of Governors of Virginia," I, 286 *et seq*.

See, also, letter of Richard Henry Lee to Scudder, Ballagh's "Letters of Richard Henry Lee," I, 155-156.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to purchase the same at the prizes offered, for the use of the State.

The following was received from the Executive

In Council Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

The inclosed resolution for purchasing Slaves to carry on the West Ham Foundry is transmitted to your Board to be carried into execution, as the care of those works rests with you.

signed

TH: JEFFERSON.

P. S. Since writing the above another resolution of Assembly is come to hand for purchasing Iron of Mr. Ross. I inclose it to you with a Copy of his Letter proposing the supply, and Governour Henrys Answer

Signed

TH: J.

In the House of Delegates the 3<sup>d</sup>. Dec. 1779.

Resolved that the representation of the Board of War recommending the continuance of the Works at West Ham, is well founded, and that the foundry at West Ham ought to be continued and carried on.

Resolved that the Executive be empowered to purchase as many labouring Slaves and Tradesmen, as they shall deem necessary for carrying on the Foundry at West Ham; and if a sufficient number cannot be purchased, to make good the deficiency by Hiring.

Teste J. BECKLEY.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Agreed to by the Senate.

Will. Drew. C. S.

In the House of Delegates the 3<sup>d</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1779.

Resolved that the Executive be desired to carry into execution the Contract entered into by the late Governor with M<sup>r</sup> David Ross for supplying the foundry with two Hundred and fifty Tun of Pig Iron.

Teste

JOHN BECKLEY C. H. D.

December 4<sup>th</sup> 1779.

Agreed to by the Senate

Will. Drew, C. S.

The Management of the Public Foundry at West Ham has ever been understood as under the direction of the board of War, but the Instructions above from the Executive being so pointed, it becomes the Duty of the Board to carry them into execution in the best manner possible.

Ordered that M<sup>r</sup>. Ross's proposals of delivering the Iron contracted for at the Foundry at his charge, and risque, at one third of the price of Bar Iron at M<sup>r</sup>. James Hunters Works Per Ton be accepted.



## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

*(From "Memoir" (1829), I, 172.)*

Williamsburg, December 10, 1779.

*Sir,*

I take the liberty of putting under cover to your Excellency, some letters to General Phillips and Reidezel, uninformed whether they are gone into New York or not, and knowing that you can best forward them in either case.

I also trouble you with a letter from the master of the flag in this State, to the British commissary of prisoners in New York, trusting that it will thus be more certainly conveyed than if sent to Mr Adams. It is my wish the British commissary should return his answer through your Excellency, or your commissary of prisoners, and that they should not propose, under this pretext, to send another flag, as the mission of the present flag is not unattended with circumstances of suspicion; and a certain information of the situation of ourselves and our allies here, might influence the measures of the enemy.

Perhaps your commissary of prisoners can effect the former method of answer.

I enclose to you part of an Act of Assembly ascertaining the quantity of land, which shall be allowed to the officers and soldiers at the close of the war, and providing means of keeping that country vacant which has been allotted for them.

I am advised to ask your Excellency's attention to the case of Colonel Bland, late commander of the barracks in Albemarle. When that gentleman was appointed to that command, he attended the Executive here, and informed them, he must either decline it, or be supported in such a way as would keep up that respect which was essential to his command; without, at the same time, ruining his private fortune.

The Executive were sensible he would be exposed to great and unavoidable expense: they observed, his command would be in a department separate from any other, and that he actually relieved a Major General from the same service. They did not think themselves authorised to say what should be done in this case, but undertook to represent the matter to Congress, and, in the mean time, gave it as their opinion that he ought to be allowed a decent table. On this, he undertook the office, and in the course of it incurred expenses which seemed to have been unavoidable, unless he would have lived in such a way as is hardly reconcileable to the spirit of an officer, or the reputation of those in whose service he is. Governor Henry wrote on the subject to Congress; Colonel Bland did the same; but we learn they have concluded the allowance to be unprecedented, and inadmissible in an officer of his rank. The commissaries, on this, have called on Colonel Bland for reimbursement. A sale of his estate was about to take place, when we undertook to recommend to them to suspend their demand, till we could ask the favor of you to advocate this mat-

ter so far with Congress, as you may think it right; otherwise the ruin of a very worthy officer must inevitably follow.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect and esteem,  
Your Excellency's  
most obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

*(From Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Saturday, December 11.

[From the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.]

*Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee,* That the Governor, with the advice of the Council, do appoint a commissioner or commissioners, to adjust and settle the accounts of Richard Adams, Turner Southall and Nathaniel Wilkinson, Esquires, formerly managers and trustees for the Commonwealth in erecting the public foundry and works at Westham.

\* \* \* \*

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, enclosing one from the Board of War, respecting the attempts of a band of speculators to create an artificial scarcity of grain, and the same were read and ordered to be referred to the committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of certain officers in the clothier and commissaries departments.<sup>66</sup>

*(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)*

Friday, Dec. 17th, 1779.

The following resolution of the Assembly was received from the Executive-

In the House of Delegates 8<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup>. 1779.

Resolved that the Executive be empowered to contract for Clothing, provisions or other necessaries for the Slaves and Tradesmen employed in Carrying on the foundry at Westham.

Test JOHN BECKLEY C. H. D.

11<sup>th</sup> Decm<sup>r</sup>. 1779

Agreed to by the Senate

W Drew Clk S.

In Council 13<sup>th</sup> Decm<sup>r</sup> 1779

It is recommended to the Board of Trade to carry this resolution, of advice into Execution.

Signed

TH: JEFFERSON.

Saturday 18th December 1779

Upon maturely reflecting on the enormous expence attending the support of the Public Ship Yard at Cumberland<sup>66a</sup> We are inclined, with the approbation of His Excellency in Council, to discontinue it.

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<sup>66</sup>Hening, X, 157.

<sup>66a</sup>Cumberland was on the Pamunkey River some miles below Newcastle.

We have only Six Sea Vessels belonging to the Trading Department and but little prospect in the present situation of our finances of increasing the number; these we think may be kept in proper repair at far less expence to the State than We are now at in supporting the Public Yard.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to debit Goffigon (the Pilot employed by the Executive to go to France) with our Bill on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Penet & C<sup>o</sup>. for eight hundred & fifty Livres tournois in favor of William Haywood Esq<sup>r</sup>. for so much advanced Goffigon by him.

Dec<sup>r</sup>. 20<sup>th</sup> approved by the Executive.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. LEE, OF MARYLAND.

(*From Maryland Historical Magazine, V, 257.*)

Williamsburg Dec. 15, 1779.

Sir

The inclosed letter which came by flag of truce from New York will, I imagine, inform you that prisoners from your State are sent here for the purpose of exchange. A copy of a letter from the master of the flag I also take the liberty of enclosing, as it will give you further information of their arrival here & escape from the flag. The Master is to await the return of the prisoners whom your Excellency may think proper to give in exchange for these.

After expressing my satisfaction at your Excellency's appointment to an office, a second time so worthily filled I take this my earliest opportunity of asking leave to trouble you from time to time with such communications as may be for the good of either state, of praying that you will be pleased to render me instrumental to their common service by honoring me with your commands, & of assuring you how earnestly I wish to see a perfect cordiality maintained between two sister states to whom common interests, manners, & dispositions have rendered a cordial intercourse so easy & necessary.

I am with the utmost respect & esteem  
Your Excellency's most obedient  
& most humble Srv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(*From Papers of the Continental Congress, 71, V. I, 307.*)

Wmsburg, Decr. 16. 1779.

Sir

We have information from our Delegates in Congress that the detention of some continental arms by the executive of this State during the course of the last summer has given considerable umbrage to Congress. I beg leave therefore, thro' you Sir, to lay before that honorable body facts, simply as they occurred, hoping that these will satisfy them that, the arms being justly due to this State, necessity alone

dictated the measure, and that no sentiment of disrespect to Congress entered into the transaction. This State in an early part of the present contest raised at first two, and soon afterwards seven Battalions for its particular defence. Finding however that the dangers of our being invaded became less, our legislature made a tender of these Battalions for the continental Service. The tender was accepted of by congress only on condition that We would permit them to carry their Arms with them. They were accordingly marched to the grand army, time after time, as we could get them armed. I think this condition was dispensed with as to two Battalions only which Congress, induced by their increasing wants of men, permitted to march on without their arms. This is one of the Articles of Debit in our account of arms against the continent, which I state particularly, in order to bring it into recollection with some of your honorable members, and because, being recollected, it will go far in our justification as to the number of arms retained with us. Since this however, at different times, and for different corps, many smaller parcels of arms have been lent to Congress by us. It is a fact, which we are to lament, that, in the earlier part of our Struggles, we were so wholly occupied by the great Object of establishing our rights, that we attended not at all to those little circumstances of taking receipts, and vouchers, keeping regular accounts, and preparing subjects for future disputes with our friends. If we could have supported the whole Continent, I believe we should have done it, and never dishonored our exertions by producing accounts; sincerely assured that, in no circumstances of future necessity or distress, a like free application of anything theirs would have been thought hardly of, or would have rendered necessary an appeal to Accounts. Hence it has happened that, in the present case, the collection of vouchers for the arms furnished by this State has become tedious and difficult. Our board of War has been attending to this business a considerable time, but have as yet authenticated the loan of only 5664 Stand of Arms and 580 rifles. They seem however to believe that (exclusive of considerable numbers delivered where no receipts were taken and the Officers to whom delivered are dead or not to be found, which of course we shall lose), they will be able to establish a right to 10,000 Stand. These arms were most of them of the very best quality, imported from Great Britain, by the State, for its own use. After the loan of so many to the continent, the loss of a considerable number put into the hands of the militia during the short invasion of last Spring, many of which we were never able to recover, and a very recent Loan of 1000 Stand, to be sent on, at the request of congress, to South Carolina, we were reduced to not more than 3,000 Stand in all our Magazines. Rumors were spread of an intended invasion by the enemy for the purpose of rescuing the convention Troops; that body of men were in the heart of our Country under a guard not able to furnish centinels for ordinary duty; congress had just recommended to us to prepare for the most immediate and most vigorous operations, and to have our militia ready to march at the Shortest warning; the knolege of the low state of our Magazines had by some means got abroad, and spread a general alarm among our people: in



this situation of things a vessel, loaded with arms, seemed to be guided by the hand of providence into one of our harbours. They were it's true the property of our friends, but of friends indebted to us for those very articles. They were for the common defence too, and we were a part of the Body to be defended. An Officer came for the purpose of removing them out of the State. Would circumstances have permitted a previous application to congress, tho' not present myself, I so thoroughly know the respect which the executive bear for Congress, that I am safe in affirming that such an Application would most certainly have been made. But had they awaited that ceremony, the arms would have been gone: the continent of course would have been at the expence, & the arms exposed to the injury, and risk, of a double transportation: for I cannot but take for granted that congress would on such an Application, in the case of a State so reduced in her magazines, and reduced by Loans to them, have ordered the arms to be replaced. Time however did not admit of this ceremony; the executive therefore retained 5000 Stand. We shall not draw examples of similar liberties taken by other States; we shall never recapitulate aids granted to, or taken by our brethren, from the common Stock, because we wish it to be freely used for their service, and to draw nothing from it for ourselves unless our distresses should at any time be such as to point us out to them as objects needing the common Aid. But we will observe in general, that, between congress and this State, similar freedoms in other articles, had been repeatedly and mutually taken, on many former occasions, and never had been the cause of discontent to either party. This precedent then, strengthened by the existence of an actual Debt, seemed to give a Double sanction to the executive for what they did: nor did any instance occur to them of unreadiness at any time to spare freely on continental requisition any articles within their possession or power, which might expose them to experience in turn the disregard of congress. I flatter myself therefore that that honorable Body whenever this matter shall be the subject of their deliberations will be of opinion that the proceedings of the Lieutenant Governor and Council were substantially justifiable. They hope that no want of ceremony, or other smaller circumstance, may have been matter of Offence to congress. If in this they should be mistaken, feeling the most real respect for that body, impressed with the Idea that its authority can never be wounded without injury to the present union, they are to lament the misapprehension & wish to remove it by assuring you, as they may with truth, that no sentiment of theirs, either on this, or any other occasion, has justified it. A motive of duty and respect to the collective council of our union has led me into this detail to remove all grounds of discontent from among us, and to assure you Sir at the same time that I shall consider as occasions of manifesting my zeal for our sacred cause, those which shall occur of proving how sincerely

I am Sir

their and your most Obedient  
and most humble Servant

TH: JEFFERSON.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>67</sup>Read in Congress January 13, 1780.

(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)

Thursday, the 23<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1779.

Ordered that the following be submitted to the Executive.

We beg leave to submit to His Excellency in Council the inclosed from the Commanders of two Vessels from Bermudas with salt to exchange for Corn in consequence of permission granted the inhabitants of that Island last Spring by Congress- The terms agreed on by your Hon. Board last July was to exchange Bushel for Bushel, but as Corn has since fallen in the Price and Salt has risen to double the price it then sold for, We think it good policy to allow them two bushels of Corn for one Bushel of Salt, as it may be an inducement to a number of others to bring Cargoes of Salt from that Island, as the inhabitants of this State are so much distressed at this time for that necessary Article- We wish also to have the approbation of your Hon. Board to grant these Captains permission to purchase as much Pork, Bread and Pease as will be sufficient for the Crews of their Vessells during the time they might be supposed to accomplish their Voyages should this Quantity be more than sufficient for the State Commissaries with what Salt we have on hand and daily expect in three of our State Vessels, we would wish to be instructed in what manner your Hon. Board will have this Salt disposed of- We also beg leave to submit to His Excellency in Council an offer made by Mr. Benjamin Pollard of a Quantity of Lump Sugar for sale at fifteen dollars Per —, we wish to have the Approbation of your Honble Board for purchasing it as the Board of War has recommended it.

To which the Executive gave the following Answer

In Council Dec<sup>r</sup> 23

Approved, except as to the purchase of the Sugar which is thought too dear. Petersburg is a proper place to land the Salt.

Signed

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON,  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 288.)

In Council Dec. 23, 1779.

Sir,—

The inclosed letter from Governor Lee and intelligence accompanying it, gives reason to apprehend that the enemy meditate an invasion of this state.<sup>68</sup> The reasons which support this opinion as well as those which oppose it will occur to the General Assembly. It is our duty to provide against every event and the Executive are ac-

<sup>68</sup>"A letter of 27, from General Washington, was read giving intelligence of a second embarkation of troops sailing from New York on the 26 instant.

Ordered, That copies be sent by express to the governors of Maryland and Virginia."—"Journals of the Continental Congress," XV, 1424. (December 31.)

cordingly engaged in concerting proper measures of defence. Among others we think to call an immediate force from the militia to defend the post at York, and to take a proper post on the South side of James river, but the expence, the difficulties which attend a general call of the militia into the field, the disgust it gives them more especially when they find no enemy in place, and the extreme rigor of the season, induce us to refer to the decision of the general assembly, whether we shall on the intelligence already received & now communicated to them, call a competent force of militia to oppose the numbers of the enemy spoken of; or whether we shall make ready all orders & prepare other circumstances, but omit actually issuing these orders till the enemy appear or we have further proof of their intentions? The assembly will also please to determine whether, in case the enemy should make a lodgement in the country, it would be expedient to avail ourselves of the laudable zeal which may prevail on their first landing and enlist a sufficient number to oppose them & to continue in service during the invasion or for any other term. Perhaps it may not be amiss to suggest to the assembly the tardiness of collecting even small numbers of men by divisions, that if any better method should occur to them they may prescribe it. The present state of the Treasury in more points than one, will no doubt be thought an absolute obstacle to every military endeavor which may be unnecessary.

*(From the Virginia Gazette, Dec. 25, 1779.)*

David Mead and William Fleming, Esquires, are appointed members of the Privy Council, in the room of James Madison, and John Walker, Esquires. George Brooke, Esquire, is appointed Treasurer of this commonwealth, in the room of George Webb, Esquire, who has resigned.

\* \* \* \*

*(From "Journals of the Continental Congress," Monday, Dec. 27, 1779.)*

"A letter, of 23, and one, of 24, from General Washington<sup>69</sup> were read enclosing intelligence of the sailing of a large fleet from New York.

Ordered, that the same be referred to the Board of War, and that the Board be directed to forward on the Virginia troops with all expedition."

<sup>69</sup>On Dec. 11 Washington had written from Morristown to Gov. Jefferson: "I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I have received advice from New York that a very large embarkation had taken place (said to amount to 8000), and that the fleet containing them was at the Hook on the point of sailing--their destination reported to be Chesapeake Bay \* \* \* \* But it is not perhaps very probable that the Convention troops entered into the plan; nevertheless I think it prudent to communicate the intelligence to your Excellency, that you may have the goodness to direct your attention towards their security, and take any precautions which may appear to you necessary without conveying an alarm. For this purpose I request the favor of you to give immediate information to the officer commanding at Charlottesville."—"The Writings of George Washington," (Ford), VIII, 131, 132.



[In the Journal of December 24<sup>th</sup>. occurs the following:]

Ordered that a Letter be written to Bolling Starke esq<sup>r</sup>. directing him to take charge of the two Bermudian Vessels loaded with 1700 bushels Salt which is to be exchanged for Corn at the rate of two bushels Corn for one bushel Salt and that he be requested to have the same securely Stored at Petersburg until called for by the State they being allowed to dispose of as much Salt as will procure Pork, Bread and Pease sufficient for their Voyage outwards and inwards and also for their bye [or lye?] Days in the State.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
CONGRESS, SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(From Papers of the Continental Congress, 71, V. I, 297.)

Wmsburg, Decr. 30th, 1779.

Sir

Your Letter inclosing the resolutions of Congress relating to the capture of the Portuguese Snow by Captain Cunningham has remained hitherto unanswered because I hoped Daily to be enabled to write more fully on that subject. The resolutions, and documents accompanying them, as soon as received, were put into the hands of our Attorney General, for his opinion, with intention to have such proceedings at Law instituted as he should advise. You will see that, by his opinion, which I do myself the honor of inclosing you, the Offence could not be prosecuted here criminally; our act of Assembly, establishing a Court of Admiralty,<sup>70</sup> having, in conformity with the Articles of Confederation, expressly inhibited it from criminal jurisdiction. The General Assembly being then to meet in the month of October, I reserved the subject to be laid before them, which was accordingly done. A great variety however of other Business, which would not admit of being postponed, occasioned them to pretermitt this til their next session. So that if the Offenders be within the Cog-

<sup>70</sup>The long committee report with regard to the Portuguese vessel is found in "Journals of the Continental Congress," XIV, 838 *et seq.* (date July, 16, 1779)

The following is one of the resolves from this report:

*Resolved.* That a clear and full state of the case of the Snow, *Nostra Senhora de carmoë Santo Antonio*, and copies of all necessary vouchers be transmitted to his Excellency Thomas Jefferson, Esq. Governor of Virginia, and that he be requested in the name of the United States of America, to take the most speedy and effectual measures consistent with the laws and constitution of that State, for compelling Carter Braxton, Esq. Agent for the owners of the Privateer *Phenix*, and sole subscriber of the orders given Captain Cunningham, to repay the said sum of £6235 Sterling in good bills of exchange, or in gold or silver, or to give good and sufficient security to make provisions for discharging in due time the bill or bills to be drawn for the said sum, together with the interest and charges thereon or for indemnifying these states, against all damages which may arise from a failure on his part.

[Note: The vessel and her cargo had been captured by Captain Joseph Cunningham, commander of a private vessel of war called the *Phenix*. The owners, or part owners, were Mr. Carter Braxton and Mr. Phripp, of Virginia, and Mr. Robert Morris, of Pennsylvania. Morris affirmed that he owned but one twenty-fourth part.]

For E. Randolph's letter (dated Nov. 13, 1779) on this subject, see *Virginia Gazette*, January 8, 1780.



nisance of the Criminal Law at all (which the Attorney seems to doubt) we have as yet no court wherein they may be prosecuted. A Civil action for Damages may be instituted; and if the sufferers shall think proper to direct it, the countenance and protection of Government here shall not be wanting so far as propriety will admit or justice require.

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of December 10th inclosing resolutions of Congress of the same Date, approving our measures for guarding the convention Troops, and accepting the resignation of Colo. Bland.<sup>71</sup> I hope that, ere this, his place has been supplied, as the constant Attention of an Officer of knowledge and understanding is requisite there. Perhaps his troubles might be lessened and his Office more fully discharged, by residing at the Barracks, rather than at Charlottesville; these posts being five or six miles apart.

The resolutions of the 11th & 14th inst. inclosed in your Letter of the 14th unfortunately came not to hand til two Days after the rising of the General Assembly, which was on the 24th, and they will not meet again before the period for the delivery of the Indian Corn will be passed. They had however, early in the present year, laid a Tax payable in specific commodities; and, in their late session, directed the executive to raise from the proceeds of that Tax, six hundred thousand pounds, towards making up the quota's of money for which they were called on by Congress.<sup>72</sup> The Articles specified were Wheat, Indian Corn, rye, Barley, Oats, hemp and Tobacco at the option of the payer, but it is conjectured that payment will be made almost wholly in Indian Corn & Tobacco. I am in hopes that, on

<sup>71</sup>After the report of the Board of War was read, the action of Congress, December 10, was as follows:

*Resolved*, That Governor Jefferson be informed that Congress approve of the measures taken by the executive of the State of Virginia in sending to the post of Charlottesville, as guards to the convention troops, a new raised battalion of infantry, and a troop of light horse of their State troops; and that those troops be considered in continental service and receive continental pay and rations, while doing duty at the convention barracks:

That the Board of War be directed to order the party of Colonel Bland's regiment of light dragoons now at Charlottesville, to proceed to South Carolina forthwith and join the regiment there:

That Congress have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct firmness and prudence evidenced by Colonel Bland in his command at the convention barracks; but as the state of his health and the situation of his private affairs will not permit him to remain in command at that post, General Washington be directed to appoint a successor in the command to Colonel Bland, who shall immediately proceed to the post, and take upon him the direction of affairs there.

*Resolved*, That the resignation of Colonel Bland be accepted.

On Feb. 11, 1780, Congress adopted the following:

"Resolved, That the executive power of the State of Virginia be authorized to examine the Accounts of the deputy commissary general of purchases and issues, against Col. Bland, for articles supplied for his use while in command at the post of Charlotteville and to make such allowances in his favor as they shall deem just and proper; and that Col. Bland be discharged from payment of the monies charged against him for all articles which in the opinion of the said executive, he should have been allowed, from the peculiar situation of his command."

The report of the executive of the State of Virginia is in the Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 147, IV, folio 125.

<sup>72</sup>Hening, X, 98 *et seq.*

these acts of the legislature, we shall be enabled to comply with your requisition as to the specific article and quantity required, as we may retain the Tax in its specific form instead of converting it into money: but we shall fail in point of time; because it happens, that the ultimate term of payment allowed for this Tax is the Day on which your resolutions require delivery of it to your Commissary at such places as he shall appoint. In this point then will be felt the misfortune of the legislature's separation before receipt of the resolutions; the Executive having no power to shorten the Day of payment. I thought it my duty to give you this early notice of the particular part of that requisition, with which, from these circumstances we shall be unable to comply, that the ill effects of disappointment may be lessened by other timely measures.

The resolution of the 15th Instant recommending the continuance of embargoes is also received, that measure had been adopted some time ago as you will see by the proclamation inclosed.

I shall hereafter according to the desire of your Secretary transmit you copies of our acts of Assembly by which you will receive more minute information of the measures taken in consequence of your recommendations from time to time than the compass of a Letter would admit.

*(From the Virginia Gazette, January 1, 1780.)*

By his Excellency THOMAS JEFFERSON esq; Governour or Chief Magistrate of the State of Virginia.

Whereas the General Assembly by their act intituled "An act for the protection and encouragement of commerce of nations acknowledging the independence of the United States of America"<sup>73</sup> have authorized the Executive to receive and admit into this commonwealth a Consul or Consuls from any state which shall have acknowledged the independence of the United States of America, have given them jurisdiction to determine all controvercies between the subjects or citizens of their own state, and exempted them from all personal services required from the citizens of this commonwealth, and farther to prove their regard to justice and the interests of those in amity with them have provided a summary mode of decision for all controvercies arising between citizens of this commonwealth and subjects or citizens of any state so acknowledging their independence, and more effectual means for preventing desertions of sailors, seamen, or marines from the vessels of such states: And his Most Christian Majesty, our great and good ally, having been pleased after declaring and supporting our independence, farther to manifest his willingness to cultivate friendship, commerce and free intercourse with these states, by establishing Consuls to be resident therein, and hath appointed the Sieur Chevalier D'Anmours, to exercise that office within this commonwealth. I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council of State, to declare that the said Chevalier D'

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<sup>73</sup>Hening, X, 202 *et seq.*

Anmours<sup>74</sup> is received and admitted within this Commonwealth as Consul, on the part of his Most Christian Majesty, and that he is entitled to all the exemptions, prerogatives, and jurisdictions belonging to the said office; and hereby to notify and promulgate the premises; strictly charging and enjoining all good citizens of this commonwealth, and all subjects of his Most Christian Majesty, and others within the same, duly to respect the prerogatives and jurisdiction of the said Consul established by law, as they will answer the contrary at their peril.

GIVEN under my hand, and the seal of the commonwealth, this 30th day of December, in the fourth year of the commonwealth and in the year of our Lord, 1779.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

[On January 2, 1780, Jefferson wrote a letter to Richard Henry Lee which has not been found. Lee's reply was in part as follows:]

"I am much obliged to you for your favor of January the 2<sup>d</sup>. with its enclosures which came to hand two days ago kept back I suppose by the post. The Bearer who is Under Sherif of our county, will receive and bring me the Registers you are pleased to mention. A variety of preventions have concurred to delay my trip to Williamsburg \* \* \* \* I thank you Sir for your hint concerning Richmond. \* \* \* \* I hope the Southern news is true." Ballagh's "Letters of Richard Henry Lee," II, 174-175.

[A letter of the Governor of Virginia, of January 3, was read in Congress January 19.]

# JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(*M. L. S. Continental Congress Papers.*)

Williamsburg Jan. 3. 1780.

Sir

A large packet directed to the President of Congress with other dispatches for the Chevalier de la Luzerne & others, coming to my hands two days ago, I thought it proper to forward them to you by express. he should have set out yesterday but it was too tempestuous. I have the honor to be with all possible respect

Your Excellency's most obedient  
& most humble sert<sup>t</sup>

TH: JEFFERSON

<sup>74</sup>A letter of July 27, from the minister of France, enclosing the appointment of Sieur D'Annemours (*sic*) to be vice consul in the State of Virginia was read in Congress July 30, 1779. See "Journals of the Continental Congress," XIV, 899.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPT. EVAN SHELBY.<sup>75</sup>

(*From the Draper Manuscript Collection in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. 50 J 3.*)

W<sup>m</sup>sburg Jan<sup>y</sup> 24. 1780.

Sir

Before the receipt of your Letter, the assembly having empowered us to raise one troop of horse for the Illinois, we had commissioned Captain Rogers for that purpose who raised his men and proceeded some time in the fall to join Col<sup>o</sup>. Clarke, who was not informed of any of these measures at y<sup>e</sup> date of his Letter to you. we have therefore no authority to direct the raising any more. after thanking you for your readiness to serve the public, I subscribe myself, Sir

Your hble Servant

TH: JEFFERSON

Capt<sup>n</sup>. Evan Shelby

[Addressed:] Cap<sup>t</sup><sup>n</sup>. Shelby Holston

[Endorsed:] This is the governors letter to Me Wen I applied as you Desierd Me.

His Excellency the Gover<sup>n</sup>. to Capt Shelby, Jan<sup>y</sup>. 24 1780

(*From Journal of the Board of Trade.*)

Tuesday the 25th<sup>76</sup> January 1780.

Present J. Ambler D. Rose esq<sup>rs</sup>.

Ordered that the following be submitted to the Executive.

There being the most pressing demand for Spirit for the use of the several Garrisons, and our Stock exhausted, we beg advice from His Excellency in Council respecting M<sup>r</sup>. De Francey's Proposals, We have already purchased of that Gentleman Casks at the rate of 100 Pds Tobacco for two Gallons and an Half of Rum for which we had your Approbation; He declines Sparing any further Quantity unless We take therewith 40,000 weight of Rice and 8 or 10 hundred Bushels Salt- We think his demand of 115 lbs Tobacco for a Bushel of Salt, at any rate too high; the price of the Rice We beg leave to Submit; We are exceedingly unwilling to part with what little Tobacco we have been able to purchase,—least we should not hereafter be able to purchase necessary Cloathing; the Spirit is exceedingly wanted too and we confess ourselves at a very great loss how to act, and beg advice of His Excellency in Council.

To which the Executive gave the following Answer.

In Council January 25th 1780.

The Board disapproves altogether of the proposed purchase of Rice and Salt; and refer to the Board of Trade to determine whether

<sup>75</sup>This was Evan Shelby, jr., son of General Evan Shelby, and brother of Colonel Isaac Shelby, afterwards governor of Kentucky. He served with the rank of major at King's Mountain, and was killed by the Indians in 1793.

<sup>76</sup>There is no entry in the Journal of the Board of Trade after the minutes of December 24 until the above—January 25, 1780.



the sum to which the State of the Public Treasury will of necessity reduce them as was mentioned in Council to one of their board, will admit of their purchasing Rum as well as Cloathing and other Necessaries, if it will, there can be no objection, to the purchase of Rum, if it will not, it is thought advisable to restrain their purchases to those Articles only which they shall deem most essentially necessary.

Signed

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO JOSEPH MARTIN.<sup>77</sup>

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 385.)

W<sup>ms</sup>burg Jany 24, 1780

Sir We are very desirous of having a fort at the mouth of Ohio which together with other posts meant to be established on the Ohio may form a chain of defence for our Western frontier and at ye same time protect our Trade with New Orleans. but the ground at the Mouth of Ohio on the South side belonging to the Cherokees we would not meddle with it without their leave. We wish you therefore to treat with them for as much as will do for this purpose and for a few settlements round it for the support of y<sup>e</sup> post. indeed if they should show a disposition to part with it you may treat for all their lands between the Mississippi, Ohio, Tanissee & Carolina boundary the whole being of but small extent. I think not exceeding 20 miles square if reduced to that form. If they do not discover a willingness to part with the whole, get ground for a fort & as much as you can round about it to make corn, furnish wood &c Obtain them on as good terms as possible to be paid for in goods, which we will have provided for them. the whole when sold at our Land Office price will not bring in more than three thousand pounds Sterling. I think the goods must be got from New Orleans. I am in hopes they will not insist on our not beginning the fort till the delivery of y<sup>e</sup> goods, but if they do we Must submit to it. Make your bargain, if you can, subject to our approbation or disapprobation, because this matter having never been proposed to the Assembly we should wish to have it in our power to decline it if they should so advise. Communicate without delay what you do to Colo. Geo. Rogers Clarke at Kaskaskias or the falls of Ohio & also to Sir

Your very hble Servant

TH JEFFERSON

(From *Journal of the Board of Trade*.)

Wednesday the 26th Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1780

Ordered that the Agent purchase the several Articles mentioned as deficient in the return for Colo Bufords<sup>78</sup> Battalion agreeable to the Instructions from his Excellency in Council.

<sup>77</sup>Major Joseph Martin was at the time Indian agent.

<sup>78</sup>Col. Abraham Buford was sent with his regiment, the 11th Virginia, to the relief of Gen. Lincoln at Charleston. His command was cut to pieces at Waxhaw Creek, South Carolina, May 29, 1780.

In Council Dec<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1779.

The Board of Trade are desired to take measures for the purchase of twenty Likely Young Negro fellows for the use of the Commonwealth.

A Copy.

ARCH<sup>d</sup>. BLAIR C. C.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ordered that the following be submitted to the Executive

There is a Tract of Escheated Land situated very conveniently to the Public Foundary at Westham advertized for Sale- We beg the Opinion of His Excellency in Council whether it will not be for the interest of the State to purchase the whole or a part of said Tract as will probably furnish Wood, Grain and other necessities for the use of that Work which are not purchased at very extravagant rates.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Executive approving of the purchase of the Tract of Land convenient to the Foundry

Ordered that a Letter be written to Col<sup>o</sup>. T. Southall and Mr. James Buchanan to bid for said Land, and likewise for 15. young Negro Men agreeable to the resolution of Assembly of the . . . day of

\* \* \* \* \*

The following was received from the Executive

In Council Jan<sup>y</sup>. 26. 1780.

The Governor is advised to recommend to the Board of Trade to draw Bills of Exchange on Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Penett & C<sup>o</sup>. to the amount of £4000. Sterling payable to Col<sup>o</sup>. Geo Rogers Clarke, to be by him disposed of to the best Advantage, and the proceeds paid, four fifths to Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras, and one fifth to Cap<sup>t</sup>. Lintot <sup>73a</sup> in part of the debt due to them, and to take Measures for procuring other Bills of Exchange from Congress to be remitted to the said Penet & C<sup>o</sup>. in order to enable them to comply with the said Drafts on them; and to give the said Legras & Lintot written Assurance that the Balance which shall be still due to them shall be paid by the Public within the Term of one Year;- The Board also advise the Governor to recommend to the Board of Trade to take Measures for providing on the public Account Lumber and Beef on the Ohio to be carried to New Orleans for payment of the public Debt and providing a Fund there, and that he give Sanction to such Measures when ready to be carried into Execution.

Extract from Minutes.

A BLAIR. C. C.

(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)

Thursday the 27th January 1780.

Tho the Board, on maturely considering the Instructions from the Executive of yesterday, relative to Colo Legras & Cap<sup>t</sup>. Lintot,

<sup>73a</sup>Legras and Lintot (Linctot) were French inhabitants of the Illinois country who had assisted Clark.- See Bodley's "George Rogers Clark."

are of opinion the Business does not come with propriety, within their Department; they are willing, however, to contribute all in their power to the service of the State, and therefore in Obedience to said Instructions it is

Ordered that Bills of Exchange be drawn on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Penet & C<sup>o</sup>. to the amount of £4000 Sterling in favour of Col<sup>o</sup> George Rogers Clarke.

Ordered that a Letter be written to Colo. Geo Rogers Clarke informing him that His Excellency with advice of Council directs the said Bills shall be disposed of to the best advantage and four fifths of the produce applied to the payment in part of a Debt due to Colo Legras, and the remaining fifth to Cap<sup>t</sup>. Lintot in part of his Debt.

Ordered that a Letter be written to the Treasurer to apprise him of the necessity we shall be under to draw on him for such a sum as will answer the said Draft of four thousand pounds Sterling in order to comply with the Instructions of the Executive in procuring Bills of Exchange from the Honble the Congress.

Ordered that a Letter of Advice be written to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Penet & C<sup>o</sup>. acquainting them with the bills as above directed to be drawn as well as with the intentions of the Board to procure Bills of Exchange from Congress to be remitted them as early as possible.

Ordered that a Letter be written to Maj. Geo. Slaughter requesting his advice with respect to the practicability of procuring and transporting Beef and Lumber, or any other Merchandize, down the Mississippi, in order to open and establish a trade to New Orleans.

J. AMBLER  
DUN: ROSE.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO [JOHN TODD].

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," V, 143.)

W<sup>m</sup>sburg Jan<sup>y</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sir,

By Col<sup>o</sup> Legras I have written to Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke fully as to the military affairs in the Western department. Among other things I have advised him to withdraw to the Eastern side of the Ohio all the forces not absolutely necessary to sustain the Spirits of the Inhabitants of the Illinois, and for their real defence.

This necessity has been inferred by the impossibility of our supporting an armed force where our paper money is not current. We have no hard money among us, and are not able to establish in Europe funds sufficient to cloathe and arm our soldiers. This puts it out of our power to pay hard money Debts with bills, and renders it necessary to press you to purchase nothing beyond the Ohio which can be done without, or which may be got from the Eastern side where paper money will pay for it.

The establishment of a post at the mouth of Ohio which will take place this summer will be a convenience to the Trade of the Illinois and near enough to furnish them and Should any tribe of indians

commit hostilities against them, Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke will of course take on him the war, and endeavour to chastise them. We are in hopes you are endeavouring to introduce our Laws and form of Government among the people of Illinois as far as their temper & disposition will admit. I am satisfied of the difficulties attending this and the address necessary. We wish for their own good to give them full participation of the benefits of our free and mild Government. It is also essentially necessary that all who are parts of y<sup>e</sup> same body politic should be governed by the same laws: and the time to introduce this identity of laws with least inconvenience to themselves, is while they are few. Nothing else can so perfectly incorporate them into the general American body.

I find that y<sup>e</sup> Justices of the peace appointed among them expect to be paid. this not being the practice under our laws, there is no provision for it. Would it not be expedient to restrain these appointments to a very small number, and for these (if it be necessary) to require small contributions either from the litigants or the people at large, as you find would be most agreeable. In time I suppose even this might be discontinued. The Clerks & Sheriffs perhaps may be paid as with us, only converting Tobacco fees into their worth in peltry. as to the rules of decision & modes of proceeding I suppose ours can be only gradually introduced. It would be well to get their Militia disciplined by calling them regularly together according to our usage. however all this can only be recommended to your Discretion.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 386.)

Wmsburg Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1780.

Sir.

Your letters of October 26th & 28th and Nov<sup>br</sup> 6th came safely to hand & lastly that of August 24th. I am glad the proposition of establishing a post at or near the Mouth of Ohio is likely to answer as well in practice as to us who judged on theory only, it seemed likely to do. I have therefore written to Messrs Walker & Smith as you will see by the enclosed copy of my letter to them, to take observations of the Latitudes thereabouts that we may proceed on the surest grounds. You will please to furnish assistants, Guards, & all necessaries. I expect the description of the cliffs &c will be so minute as that when you see them you will know them in the plat & of course know their Latitude, the choice of the ground for your Fort must be left to yourself. It should be as near the Mouth of Ohio as can be found fit for fortification & within our own lines. Some attention would be proper also to the circumjacent grounds as it will probably become a town of importance. The nature of the defensive works & their extent you will accomodate to your Force. I would recommend your attention to the wood of which you make your stockades, that it be of the most lasting kind. from the best information I have had



I take for granted that our line will pass below the Mouth of Ohio. Our purchases of the Cherokees hitherto have not extended Southward or westward of the Tennessee. of course the little Tract of country between the Mississippi Ohio Tennessee & Carolina line (in which your Fort will be) is still to be purchased from them before you can begin your works. To effect this I have written to Maj. Martin our Cherokee Agent of which letter I enclose you a copy.

If the new Fort should fall within this teritory & it can be purchased we may grant lands to Settlers who will fix round about the fort provided the Assembly should approve of it, as from its reasonableness I think they will. The manner in which the Lots of Land are laid off about the French Villages I have thought very wise & worthy of imitation. perhaps besides guarding your promises of Lands to Settlers with the conditions above mentioned it would be well to add also the mode of laying them off. I send you recruiting instructions for having your Battalion filled up with men to be enlisted for the War as I wish to avoid receiving any on any other terms. Your instructions for recruiting which were communicated to us by some of your officers in the fall we took in and gave them such as are now sent you, instead of County money I send you three Hundred Land Warrants, for Five Hundred & Sixty acres of Land each which at Forty pounds the Hundred being the Treasury price amounts to the Bounty allowed by Law. these we think more likely to induce men to enlist than the money itself. I also send you twenty four blank Commissions which will be necessary to Officer eight companies the present plan of the Continental army having that number in a Battalion and a Captain Lieutenant & Ensign only to each company. The officers of your Battalion when commissioned will stand on a footing with the Officers of the other State Batt<sup>ns</sup>. The State of the Public Finances obliged the late Assembly to reduce very much their Military Establishment from what they had proposed at their session in May. they discontinued raising both the additional Eastern Batt<sup>ns</sup> & one of the Western. So there will be one Battalion only to send to you to which is to be annexed Major Slaughters Hundred men who have already marched as I expect for the falls of the Ohio. I wish that one Battalion may be raised in time to join you in the Spring, very few returns having been made to me I cannot say what number is raised probably not more than half. However, whatsoever number may be raised by that time shall march as soon as the season will admit. By them we will send such stores as to us occur to be necessary, such as Powder, Lead, Flints, Hoes, Axes, Saws, Gimblets, Nails, Hammers, Augurs, drawing Knives, Froes<sup>79</sup> & camp Kettles. If there be any other articles necessary I must get you to write to me on the Subject also to settle the best route of sending those articles hereafter there being no Guards to be had but Militia for conveying them from the Frontiers & no dependence on collecting Militia. Cannot you point out to us some place on the Frontiers where they may be safely lodged from time to time & from whence you can send for them with a proper escort? I would wish you also to inform me to what post I shall order the Bat-

<sup>79</sup>A froe (usually spelled "frow") is a tool for making staves.

talion which is to join you. We received letters from Mr. Pollock in the fall informing us of our debts at New Orleans & his distresses. We had just taken measures by shipping Tobacco to France to procure necessities for our army having no other means of relieving M<sup>r</sup> Pollock we were obliged to give him draughts on France which took the whole of that Fund & has distressed us exceedingly. The demands of Col Legras & Capt Lintot coming on us now & it being impossible to raise hard money to discharge them we are utterly at a loss what to do with them, indeed we shall not be able to determine them absolutely as to the sum we shall pay them till we know from you what proportion of the Dollars for which they have draughts were expended at the depreciated prices or in other words til we know from you what sum in hard money would reimburse their advances for which your draughts on us were made which we should be glad you would inform us by the first opportunity and send a duplicate by some second conveyance the difficulty of answering demands of hard money renders it necessary for us to contract no debts where our paper is not current it throws on us the tedious & perplexing operations of investing paper money in Tobacco, finding transportation for the Tobacco to France repeating this as often as the dangers of capture renders it necessary to insure the safe arrival of some part & negotiating Bills besides the expensive Train of Agents to do all this & the delay it occasions to the creditor. We must therefore recommend to you to purchase nothing beyond the Ohio which you can do without or which may be obtained from the East side where our paper is current. I am exceedingly glad you are making such timely provision of your next years subsistence. A Commissary for the Western Deptmt: was appointed in the fall with orders to purchase provisions on the Frontier for one Battalion his instructions shall be enlarged & a notification sent him to comply with your requisitions besides this we leave to yourself to Commission M<sup>r</sup> Shannon to act as commissary of purchases Issues Stores, Quarter Master or whatever else you may find him useful in. I suppose you will employ him principally about the Posts while the one acting in the Frontiers will be providing thereabouts. We shall use all our endeavours to furnish your men with necessary clothing but long experience renders it proper to warn you that our Supplies will be precarious You cannot therefore be too attentive to the providing them in your own Quarter as far as Skins will enable you to do it in short I must confide in you to take such care of the men under you as an economical householder would of his own family doing everything within himself as far as he can & calling for as few supplies as possible, the less you depend for supplies from this Quarter the less will you be disappointed by those impediments distance & a precarious foreign Commerce throw in the way for these reasons it will be eligible to withdraw as many of your men as you can from the West side of the Ohio leaving only so many as may be necessary for keeping the Illinois Settlements in Spirits & for their real defence. We must faithfully attend to their protection but we must accomodate our measures for doing this to our means perhaps this idea may render doubtful the expediency of employing your men

in building a fort at Kaskaskia such Fort might perhaps be necessary for the Settlers to withdraw into in time of danger but might it not also render a surprise the more dangerous by giving the enemy a means of holding a Settlement which otherwise they could only distress by a sudden visit & be obliged to abandon Of this you must be ultimately the judge We approve very much of a mild conduct towards the inhabitants of the French Villages It would be well to be introducing our Laws to their knowledge and to impress them strongly with the advantages of a Free Government the Training their Militia & getting it into subordination to proper Officers should be particularly attended to We wish them to consider us as Brothers & to participate with us the benefits of our rights & Laws We would have you cultivate peace & cordial friendship with the several tribes of Indians (the Shawanese excepted) endeavour that those who are in friendship with us live in peace also with one another against those who are our Enemies let loose the friendly Tribes The Kickapoos should be encouraged against the hostile Tribes of the Chickasaws and Choctaws and the others against the Shawanese with the latter be cautious of the terms of peace you admit an evacuation of their Country & removal utterly out of interference with us would be the most satisfactory. Amunition should be furnished gratis to those Warriors who go actually on expeditions against the Hostile Tribes As to the English not withstanding their base example we wish not to expose them to the inhumanities of a savage enemy. Let this reproach remain on them, but for ourselves we would not have our national character tarnished with such a practice. If indeed they strike the Indians these will have a natural right to punish the aggressors and we none to hinder them it will then be no act of ours but to invite them to a participation of the [war] is what we would avoid by all possible means If the English would admit them to trade & by that means get those wants supplied which we cannot supply I should think it right provided they require from them no terms of departing from their neutrality, if they will not permit this I think the Indians might be urged to break off all correspondence with them to forbid their emissaries from coming among them & to send them to you if they disregarded the prohibitions, it would be well to communicate honestly to them our present want of those articles necessary for them & our inability to get them to encourage them to struggle with the difficulties as we do til peace when they may be confidently assured we will spare nothing to put their Trade on a comfortable and just footing in the mean time we must endeavour to furnish them with amunition to provide Skins to clothe themselves, with a disposition to do them every friendly office & to gain their Love we would yet wish to avoid their visits except those who come with Capt Lintot We have found them very hard to please expensive & troublesome and they are moreover exposed to danger in passing our western counties it will be well therefore (especially during the War) to waive their visits in as inoffensive a way as possible.

In a letter to you of the 1st inst: I supposed you would in the ensuing Summer engage either in the Shawanee war or against Detroit



leaving the choice of these & all other objects to yourself I must also refer to you whether it will be best to build the Fort at the Mouth of Ohio before you begin your campaign or after you shall have ended it, perhaps indeed the delays of obtaining leave from the Cherokees or of making a purchase from they [them] may oblige you to postpone it till fall

I have rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Captains Shelby & Worthington<sup>79a</sup> the former acquainting me he had rec<sup>d</sup> your instructions to raise a Troop of Horse the latter that he had raised one from the date of your letter to Shelby I knew you could not have been apprised that the Assembly had authorised us to raise a Troop for you & that we had given a commission to Rogers by whom you sent us information of the capture of St. Vincennes, Rogers accordingly raised his men got all accoutrements & marched to join you in the fall. As to Capt. Wotherington who sais he has raised his men you must state to us the necessity for your raising two Troops, that we may lay it before the Assembly who alone have a power of giving sanction to the measure the distress of the Public Treasury will be a great obstacle so that it will be well for you to take measures for reserving to yourself the benefit of Capt Wotherington's men in some other capacity if they should be disapproved of as Horsemen

I am Sir Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) TH JEFFERSON

[Endorsed:] Letter of Instructions from Thos Jefferson to Genl George Rogers Clarke (1780) copy Wm P C [William Clark, younger brother of Geo. Rogers Clark.]

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THOMAS WALKER  
& DANIEL SMITH.<sup>80</sup>

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 392.)

W<sup>ms</sup>burg Jan'y 29th 1780

Sir-[Sirs-]

As we propose this spring to take possession of and fortify some post as near the mouth of Ohio as the ground will admit, it becomes very important for us to know the exact latitude thereabouts. I take it for granted that your present Line will be stopped before you get there by unpurchased Lands. We therefore wish extremely that one of you would take a trip to the mouth of the Ohio with your instruments immediately upon finishing your present work. I Suppose it will be best for you to go to the falls of the Ohio where Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke has orders to furnish you with Assistants, an escort and all necessaries.

<sup>79a</sup>This was Edward Worthington, one of Clark's leading followers. In a letter to Gov. Henry from Kaskaskia, Illinois, dated Feb. 3, 1779, Clark wrote as follows: "The principal persons that follow me on this forlorn hope [expedition against Vincennes] are Captain[s] Joseph Bowman, John Williams, Edward Worthington, Richard M[c] Cart'y and Fran[cis] Charleville; Lieutenants: Richd Brashears, Ab<sup>m</sup> Kellar, Ab<sup>m</sup> Chaplin, Jn<sup>o</sup> Bailly and several other brave subalterns."

<sup>80</sup>Thomas Walker and Daniel Smith were two of the most noted pioneers and xplorers of the early West and very efficient surveyors and map makers.



You will first find the point at which our Line strikes the Mississippi or Ohio, and fix it by some lasting immovable natural mark if there happen to be any on the spot, or if not, then by its course or distance from some such natural mark, noting such course as corrected from the errors of variation, and the distance reduced to horizontal measure. the reason of requiring this accuracy in fixing the point where our Line strikes is, that in future, with common instruments it will be easy to find it which may perhaps be of importance. When you have found this point if it be on the Mississippi run from thence along up the river to the mouth of Ohio, and by protraction fix the point of the forks, or if it be on the Ohio, run up that river to where good Cliffs for fortification shall make in and as you go along note the high grounds points or Cliffs on the river which appear to you capable of Works of defence and at the same time to command a view of the river. This done I would ask the favor of you to return one plat of your work to Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke and another to me. Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke has in his eye a particular cliff on the Mississippi which he expects is the nearest good ground for fortification. This he will describe to you, and you will please to note it particularly. I am in hopes that it will suit one of you to undertake this business. We think to have the fort begun, which cannot be till we are assured that the ground we should pitch on is within our own Country. The disappointment will therefore be of the greatest moment should you decline the Service.

I am Gent<sup>l</sup> with the greatest respect Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Hmble Serv<sup>t</sup>

[On Jan. 30 Gov. Jefferson wrote to the Council of Maryland. See their reply, "Archives of Maryland," XLIII, 95.]

*(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)*

Monday Jan<sup>y</sup>. 31<sup>st</sup> 1778.

The following was received from His Excellency

Jan<sup>y</sup>. 28. 1780

I find that the recommendation of Council to have Bills of Exchange drawn and sent to Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras, that the Proceeds may by him be divided between Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras and Capt. Lintot will not answer, as I now understand the latter does not mean to return to the Illinois, but to take a Trip to France; the Bills must therefore be made separate here. I think also that those which shall be sent to Col<sup>o</sup>. Clarke will be negotiated to greater advantage if drawn in Livres, with which the People of Illinois are acquainted, and in small Bills. Perhaps if your whole Draughts were to amount to 75,000 Livres only, and these be divided into Bills of 5000 Livres each, it might answer; Three Sets of these I should deliver to Capt Lintot, and twelve Sets to Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras. Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras leaves Town on Sunday- I am

Gent<sup>n</sup>.

Y<sup>r</sup>. obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

THO<sup>s</sup>. JEFFERSON.

P. S. On further consideration perhaps it will suffice to draw the Bills for Legras only at present, as Lintot will be here sometime, per-

haps long enough to get Bills from Philadelphia, to which place I write by an Express going tomorrow.

Ordered that the Bills and Letters directed to be drawn on Thursday last be altered agreeable to the above Instructions.

J. AMBLER  
DUN: ROSE.

Friday the 4th February 1780

Ordered the following be submitted to the Executive.

His Excellency having recommended the immediate purchase of sundry Necessaries to compleat the deficient Suppliees for the new Levies of Colo Bufords Battalion. We in consequence thereof directed the Agent to procure the same immediately all which he has been able to do except 152 Shirts, proper Linnen is not to be bought and we think the Shirts- a sample of which we now hand the Honble Board, are exceedingly highprized, however We think it our Duty to submit the Determination of the purchase of them to His Excellency in Council.

To which the Executive gave the following Answer

In Council Feb<sup>y</sup>. 4. 1780.

The Board are of Opinion that exorbitant as the price is these Articles must be bought to complete the cloathing which will authorize us to march Buford's Battalion out of the State- a few days' subsistence & pay (if detained for want of Shirts) will exceed the price demanded.

TH. JEFFERSON.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to purchase the beforementioned Shirts.

Ordered that the following be submitted to the Executive

The exhausted State of the Treasury rendering it impracticable to make the Purchases of Slaves, Tobacco & Land which have from time to time been recommended to this Board, We wish as the only Means left us to comply with those recommendations, to have a Letter from his Excellency in Council to the Escheators of those Counties where the Purchases can be made, authorizing them to admit of our Assumpsits to the Treasurer for what we shall purchase on behalf of the State.

THOMAS WHITING  
J. AMBLER  
DUN: ROSE.

*(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)*

Saturday 5 of Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1780.

Ordered that the following representation be made to the Executive

We beg advice from His Excellency in Council how we shall have the six Negroe Slaves, part of the number the Board was instructed to purchase, disposed of.

The Executive approving of the Excheators admitting of the Assumpsits of this Board to the Treasurer for such Purchases as are of escheated Property in behalf of the State,

Ordered that Letters be written to the several Excheators agreeable to the recommendation of the Executive.

The Executive recommending the six Negroes, mentioned above, to be employed in the Armourer's Shop.

Ordered that the Agent deliver them to Mr. James Anderson superintendant of said Shop.

(From the Virginia Gazette, February 12, 1780.)

War Office, Williamsburg, Feb. 4 1780.

The inclemency<sup>80a</sup> of the season having prevented the officer appointed to review and receive the new recruits raised under the act of Assembly concerning officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines, to perform the duties there prescribed on the days advertised in the gazette of December 11th. The board of War have changed the days of general rendezvous in the following manner, viz. At Petersburg on the 1st instant New London on the 26th, Staunton on the 6th of March, Winchester on the 12th, Fredericksburg the 20th, and Williamsburg the 1st of April. The County Lieutenants and recruiting officers are most earnestly requested to use every possible exertion to have the recruits falling under their several directions, at the places and at the times above specified.

T. JEFFERSON

JAMES INNES

JAMES BARRON.

[Re-published in the issues of February 19 and 26

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(From Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 71, I, folio 315.)

Sir

Wmsburg, Feb'y. 9th, 1780.

Your Excellencys letter inclosing that of Mr. Scott to President Reed, and the President's to the Delegates of Pennsylvania in Con-

<sup>80a</sup>The Virginia Gazette of January 15 announced:-"For a week past we have had the most severe weather that has been felt in this country for upwards of forty years."

In the issue of January 22 it is stated:-"We are creditably informed that six loaded waggons went over James river, on the ice, from Warwick to the opposite shore, some time last week."

On January 29: "A Gentleman from York informs us, that several men crossed the river yesterday from Gloucester to that place upon the ice; an instance of which is not remembered by the oldest person now living."

A table covering daily range in temperature, from the beginning of the year to and including January 23, as observed in Hanover county, is published in the Gazette of January 29.

The issue of February 5 reports continued intense cold.

On February 12:- "The continental brig Baltimore, commanded by Capt John Nicholson; and a brig belonging to Philadelphia, Capt. Valance, are both ashore at cape Henry. Many of the men are frostbit, and the best part of their cargoes, as well as the vessels, it is thought will be lost."

gress, together with the resolutions<sup>81</sup> of your honorable body recommending to both States to forbear granting lands within their disputed territory came safely to hand. I immediately availed myself of an opportunity, which occurred at that time, to Pittsburg, of taking measures to prevent any disorders on the part of our people. having had no other information on the subject than what was communicated in the letters before mentioned I am uninformed whether any actual breach of the peace has taken place. As Mr. Scott however mentions nothing but the proceedings of the Commissioners for settling disputed titles under this Commonwealth, I rather hope that that is the only act which has been the subject of uneasiness. Our assembly finding that, in defiance of their endeavours to discourage and prevent the settling our Western Country, people were removing thither in great numbers, appropriating lands of their own authority, and meditating to hold them by force, after propositions, made and rejected at several sessions, for legalising those settlements, at length found it necessary to give way to the torrent, and by their act of May 1779 to establish a land office. the irregular claims and settlements which in the mean time had covered that Country were become so extensive that no prudent man could venture to locate a new claim, and so numerous that in the common administration of justice it would have engrossed the whole time of our ordinary courts for many years to have adjusted them. So multifarious were they, at the same time, that no established principles of law or equity could be applied for their determination; many of them being built on customs & habits which had grown up in that Country, being founded on modes of transmission peculiar to themselves, and which, having entered almost into every title, could not be absolutely neglected. This impressed on the minds of the assembly the necessity of sending special Commissioners to settle, on the spot, & without delay, those various claims, which being once cleared away would leave the residuary Country open to the acquisition of other adventurers. The Western Counties were accordingly laid off into Districts for this purpose, and the arrangement, being general, included the territory on the Waters of the Ohio claimed by the State of Pennsylvania. Whether the Assembly did not advert to this Circumstance, or took for granted that the Commissioners would never consider a law of this State as meant to be applied to those who professed themselves the Citizens of another, & had been freely admitted so to profess themselves by our Government, or whether they relied that the term of one year, within which

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<sup>81</sup>The Resolve of Congress, December 27, 1779, was as follows:

That it be recommended to the contending parties not to grant any part of the disputed land, or to disturb the possession of any persons living thereon, and to avoid every appearance of force until the dispute can be amicably settled by both states, or brought to a just decision by the intervention of Congress: that possessions forcibly taken be restored to the original possessors, and things placed in the situation in which they were at the commencement of the present war, without prejudice to the claims of either party.

The Mr. Scott mentioned in the first sentence of Jefferson's letter to the president of Congress was Thomas Scott a leading partisan of Pennsylvania in the boundary dispute between that State and Virginia. Joseph Reed was president of the State of Pennsylvania.



they provided that no grant should issue on any judgment of the Commissioners would give them time for the settlement of our disputed territory, or at least to provide for the peace of their Citizens within it, is not within my province or power to say. this however I can say, that from an intimate knowledge of their cordial desire to settle this claim with them amicably, no motive, inconsistent with that, entered into the transaction. In fact the execution of this Commission, guarded as its effects are by a twelve monts [*sic*] delay of the grants, appears to be as peaceable & inoffensive as the mission of so many astronomers to take the longitude or latitude of the several farms. There is indeed a clause in the act of Assembly which might, on first view, be thought to leave an opening for the introduction of force. It is that which sais [*sic*] that, judgement being rendered, if possession be *forcibly detained* by the party against whom it is, restitution may be made by the Commissioners or by any justice in like manner as might be done in the case of lands holden by grant actually issued: a Clause very necessary in our other Western Country, but not at all applicable to that part of it claimed by the State of Pennsylvania. By the laws of this Commonwealth (the same in this instance with the English law) even in the case of lands holden under actual grant, no restitution can be made after three years peaceable possession, a term much shorter than that of any *bona fide* possessions in the disputed territory. the latest of these must be of six or seven years continuance, the present dispute having so long subsisted. the expediency & necessity therefore of the general measure of establishing this temporary Court, I doubt not but Congress will perceive, and tho' it is to be wished that the disputed territory had been exempted from this jurisdiction, in order to avoid every thing which might give jealousy or uneasiness to a Sister State; or which might lead them into an apprehension that we meant to do any act which sh'd wound the amity between us; yet I hope when Congress contemplates it's effects, they will be sensible that it only amounts to a settlement on paper of the rights of individuals derived from this State, and that no mans possession or quiet can be disturbed in consequence of any proceedings under it, until our Legislature which meets in May next shall have had time to settle finally with them this unfortunate dispute, or otherwise to provide against the evils they have apprehended. On my part nothing has been, or shall be omitted for preservation of the peace of that Country. besides the injunctions which, as far as the laws would authorize, I have urged to those, the exercise of whose offices might lead to any thing disagreeable, or whose personal character & influence might aid in the preservation of peace, I shall avail myself of such other measures as may tend to the same object. the law having admitted grants to be sued out in cases where there were no contending claims of individuals, I inquired at the proper office whether, previous to the receipt of the resolutions of congress, any such might have issued for land in the Counties of Yohogania, Monongalia & Ohio, these being the Counties part of which are clamed by the State of Pennsylvania. I found that eight such had issued, under what particular circumstances they are I am not able to discover. I am

happy however that the law has left it in my power to comply with the recommendations of Congress, by withholding my signature from any other grants within those Counties, which I shall strictly do, and rest its approbation on the General Assembly and the motives which led to it.

President Reed seems to think that this State has affected delays in the settlement of the right to the disputed territory. a review of the proceedings of our assembly on that subject will so fully convince you of their earnest and unremitting endeavours to procure an amicable settlement, that, without giving you further trouble, I may take the liberty of referring you to the inclosed State of their proceedings for full justification from this suspicion. the novelty of the line proposed for the Western boundary of Pennsylvania by the joint Commissioners, may well account for a hesitation to confirm it, until probable information can be obtained of its actual location. At the same time I must not leave unnoted that the joint Commissioners have not attended to the settlers under either State, who may by this new line fall within the other, nor made any proposition for quieting their possessions. Yet it is surely an object, worthy the attention of us all, to provide that a tract of country, derelict by the State under which they wished to live, should not be urged into a secession from the common union, and into an assumption of a independance by fears that their actual possessions may be made to give way to mere paper titles. Should the reference of the proposition to our next session of assembly give time to avoid this evil alone, I am persuaded it will be thought conducive to the quiet of both States.

I shall take care to lay before our assembly the resolutions and letters you have been pleased to communicate to me on this subject, not doubting that they will supply those efforts beyond the limits of my power which are necessary to remove the present & prevent all future uneasiness. I can say nothing to whatever looks like menace on the part of our brethren. The choice of terms would be delicate & difficult, and their construction hazardous, which would express a proper sensibility on this tender point, and not produce sentiments repugnant to that sincere love I shall for ever strive to cultivate with all our Sister States. To history therefore I must refer for answer, in which it would be an unhappy passage indeed, which should shew by what fatal indulgence of subordinate views & passions, a contest for an atom had defeated well founded prospects of giving liberty to half the globe. That no such blot shall wipe out the sequel of our glorious struggle I trust as well in the approved zeal of the Gentleman who adorns the administration of the other State, as in the resolutions of our own Government to postpone to the great object of Liberty every smaller motive & passion. in every Circumstance, Sir, the kind attention of your body will be remembered and approved, and no occasion omitted of assuring you with how great respect and esteem I am,

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(From "Memoir" (1829), I, 173.)

Williamsburg, February 10, 1780.

Sir,

It is possible you may have heard, that in the course of the last summer an expedition was meditated, by our Colo. Clarke against Detroit: that he had proceeded so far as to rendezvous a considerable body of Indians, I believe four or five thousand, at St. Vincennes; but, being disappointed in the number of whites he expected, and not choosing to rely principally on the Indians, he was obliged to decline it. We have a tolerable prospect of reinforcing him this spring, to the number which he thinks sufficient for the enterprise. We have informed him of this and left him to decide between this object, and that of giving vigorous chastisement to those tribes of Indians, whose eternal hostilities have proved them incapable of living on friendly terms with us. It is our opinion his inclination will lead him to determine on the former. The reason of my laying before your Excellency this matter, is that it has been intimated to me that Colo. Broadhead is meditating a similar expedition. I wished, therefore, to make you acquainted with what we had in contemplation. The enterprising & energetic genius of Clarke is not altogether unknown to you. You also know (what I am a stranger to) the abilities of Broadhead, and the particular force with which you will be able to arm him for such an expedition. We wish the most hopeful means should be used for removing so uneasy a thorn from our side. As yourself, alone, are acquainted with all the circumstances necessary for well informed decision, I am to ask the favor of your Excellency if you should think Broadhead's undertaking it most likely to produce success, that you will be so kind as to intimate to us to divert Clarke to the other object, which is also important to this State. It will, of course, have weight with you in forming your determination, that our prospect of strengthening Clarke's hands sufficiently, is not absolutely certain. It may be necessary perhaps to inform you that these two officers cannot act together, which excludes the hopes of ensuring success by a joint expedition.

I have the honor to be, with the most sincere esteem, your Excellency's most obedt. & most hbl. servt.

TH: JEFFERSON

(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)

Wednesday February 16th. 1780.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ordered that the following be submitted to the Executive.

Mr. Henry Brown offers 10. hhds. of Rum at £ 25 Per Gall. in exchange for Cordage at 40/ per lb.-the price of the Rum is extravagant, but as it is suggested that the Troops cannot be marched to the Southward without this Article and it laying at Petersburg We think



it our Duty under the circumstances, to submit the Terms to His Excellency in Council for advice.

Which being approved by the Executive.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to purchase the same at £ 25. Per Gallon payable in Cordage.

Thursday February 17th.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ordered that a Letter be written to His Excellency in answer to one of the 7<sup>th</sup>. Inst.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ordered that the following be submitted to the Executive.

"The Commissioners of Trade conceiving, as they took the Liberty to observe upon its first recommendation from His Excellency in Council, that the adjustment of the Business with Colo. Legras and Capt. Lintot does not come with propriety into the mercantile department, think it their duty to request a Line of Instructions from the Honob<sup>e</sup>. Board, if any alteration or addition shall be thought necessary therein, as well for their Justification as their guide.

*(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)*

Friday 18 Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1780.

The Commissioners of Trade beg leave to submit the following to His Excellency in Council

The Act of Assembly establishing this Board directs, that it shall be subject to the advice and controul of the Executive, in every instance; and shall be held when & where the Governor, with advice of Council shall appoint: Now, tho' we clearly see the propriety of the Board's being fixed under the immediate inspection of the Executive, and it is what the Commissioners wish for, We are, nevertheless, apprehensive it will be impracticable to remove it to Richmond so soon as the Executive are under the necessity of going there, for the following reasons.

It appears to us that it will be to very little purpose to remove the Board, unless the several Appendant offices, as the Agent, Commissary of Stores &c. and their Assistants could also accompany it, for these being the persons to whom the execution of the most important business of the Trade is necessarily committed, it is essentially requisite that the Commissioners should be present to superintend them; and tho' perhaps we may be able, at very great expenc<sup>e</sup> and uncertainty, to procure accomodations at Richmond during the Session of Assembly there is good reason to believe it will be impracticable to accommodate all the necessary officers, and absolutely impossible to procure the proper Houses for the reception and securing the Public Stores; and without these, most of the Officers in the trading department would be useless- It appears to us also at this time of pressing call for supplies for the State, that our present situation will afford us much better opportunities of making advantageous purchases of such cargoes as may arrive; if at Richmond our distance from the



seaports will be so great, as still to add much to the advantages which the Speculators and Monopolizers have over us. If to these considerations we may presume to add, that should it be found expedient, or necessary, at the next session of assembly, either to abolish the Board or return it to Williamsburg until a more favourable time for removal shall offer, the expence to the State, to say nothing of our own, which an immediate removal would unnecessarily incur, must be enormous. The only inconvenience we can at present foresee in the boards being separated for a short time from the Executive is our not being able to procure their immediate approbation of any purchase we may think it prudent to make; but the opportunities of making considerable purchases seldom occur and when they do we have generally four or five Days given us to determine, which will afford us time sufficient for procuring it from Richmond- This matter appearing to us of very great consequence we think it our duty to submit our sentiments respecting it, to His Excellency in Council not doubting such advice and direction therein as may be most for the Interest of the State.

To which the Executive gave the following Answer (here record it)

[The letter is not recorded, however, in the minutes preserved.]

The following was received from the Executive in answer to the representation of yesterday respecting Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras and Capt. Lintot,

In Council Feb. 18. 1780.

The Board, in order to give satisfaction as far as they are able to Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras and Major Lintot, recommend to the Board of Trade to convert into Tobacco such of the Bills of Exchange formerly recommended to be drawn as they shall be able to do on reasonable terms, such Tobacco to be delivered in payment in lieu of the Bills; they do not doubt the Board of Trade will endeavor to negotiate at the same time a suspension of the transmission of the Bills a certain time to give the leizure to provide for their acceptance.

TH JEFFERSON.

In obedience to which instructions

Ordered that the Agent use his utmost endeavors to procure as much Tobacco as he can on reasonable terms payable by the Commissioners of Trade and countersigned by the Governor to be paid for in Bills of Exchange drawn on Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Penet Dacosta Freres & C<sup>o</sup>. Merchants at Nantz.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO \_\_\_\_\_

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 300.)

Williamsburg, Feb. 18, 1780.

Sir, -

I have spoken with the Board of War on the subject of the battery at Hood's,<sup>82</sup> and they concur with me in wishing to avail themselves of your services there, and will give orders accordingly. This

<sup>82</sup>Hood's was on the James River in Prince George County opposite Weyanoke. It is now called Fort Powhatan. The battery at this point offered some resistance to Arnold's fleet in January, 1781, but the position was easily captured

together with similar batteries on the other rivers will probably take some time. Tho' considering their great importance to the security and quiet of the country above them, we are assured you will freely lend us your aid in seeing them planned and executed. We ask this the rather as the distresses impending over our sister state of South Carolina urges us to send forward the whole of our regiment of artillery (whom we have a power of sending out of the state) and a detachment from yours of about 80 under the command of Colo. Porterfield<sup>83</sup>, with the two state troops of horse. Your battalion after this detachment is withdrawn we think to divide among the several battalions, and have reason to hope that the recruits for the two Eastern battalions will enable us to complete it, so that on you we shall rest for this campaign the burthen of our military cares, endeavoring to procure a readiness of such aids of militia as may be suddenly called for by you. I must ask the favor of you to communicate to Colo. Porterfield orders to prepare immediately for marching, and to concert with him the best means of obtaining voluntarily the number of men required from your battalion. We understand a greater number of them have enlisted under the act concerning officers, soldiers, sailors & marines, who of course are obliged to go: but we would rather call the willing into this service.

*(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)*

Feb. 19, 1780.

On reconsidering the Agent's proposal of charging 400 Per Ct. on such necessaries as himself the Commissary of Stores and their Assistants were licenced by the Executive to draw from the public Store, the Answer of the Executive relative to this Business of the 4<sup>th</sup>. of September last was referred to which are in these words.

"They have no objection to their drawing Goods out of the public Store, for their own private use, under this restriction, that they pay the current purchase advance of such Goods & whether *imported or purchased*."— Application was made to the Hono. Board for an exemption by troops sent by Arnold to get in its rear. (See "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 442.)

When Arnold came back down the river after his capture of Richmond, he made a landing at Hood's, in the neighborhood of which there was an engagement between a part of this force and a body of Virginia militia under the command of George Rogers Clark. On page 457 of Vol. IV of Burk's "History of Virginia" is the following account of this affair: "When they reached Hood's, Baron Steuben was within 9 or 10 miles of that place. The whole British army was landed there in the night, Arnold himself attending in person. The brave Colonel Clarke, of Kaskaskias, who happened to be at Richmond, preparing for a grand enterprize against Detroit, when Arnold advanced from Westover, cheerfully joined the Baron in his annoyance of the retiring foe. So soon as the British landed at Hood's he was detached by Steuben, with two hundred and forty men—drew a party of the enemy into an ambuscade—and there gave them a deliberate fire, which killed seventeen on the spot, and wounded thirteen. The fire of the Americans was feebly returned—after which the British pressed onward with fixed bayonets—Clark's party were badly armed, and he prudently directed a retreat."

<sup>83</sup>Lt. Col. Charles Porterfield was mortally wounded and taken prisoner at Camden, August 16, 1780.

planation who returned in answer "that the necessaries to be supplied the Agent Commissary of Stores and their Assistants were meant to be charged at the same rates which the State paid for Goods at the times the Necessaries were drawn."

Ordered that a Copy of the above be delivered to the Agent & Commissary and that they be directed to pay due attention thereto

\* \* \* \* \*

The following was handed the Board

Gent<sup>n</sup> The Members of the Council present desire you will be pleased to furnish M<sup>r</sup>. Thomas Bentley with one thousand Dollars taking his Bill in promissory Note for payment of the same in the County of Illinois to Col. G. R. Clarke

I am

Y<sup>r</sup> most ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOHN PAGE.

To which the Board gave the following answer

Board of Trade 19 Feb<sup>r</sup>.

The Commissioners of Trade would not hesitate a Moment to comply with the above recommendation but it is out of their power to raise the Money. The Treasurer will not pay our Drafts unless expressly instructed by the Executive.

The Hono. Jn<sup>o</sup> Page having agreed to furnish the above sum of 1000 Dollars.

Ordered that the Agent pass the said Sum to M<sup>r</sup>. Page's Credit and deliver it to M<sup>r</sup>. Thomas Bentley taking his obligation to repay the same to Col<sup>o</sup>. G. Rogers Clark on his arrival at the Illinois which obligation he will forward to Col<sup>o</sup>. Clark.

THOMAS WHITING  
J. AMBLER.  
DUN: ROSE.

*(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)*

March 4th, 1780.

The following was received from the Executive relative to Col Legras and Major Lintot

In Council March 3 1780.

The Board of Council having formerly determined that if Colo Legras's and Maj. Lintot's Claim could not be settled in the above mentioned mode that they would adhere to their first Resolution of paying him by Bills of Exchange drawn on M Penet & C<sup>o</sup>. at Nantz in France; and therefore the Members of the Council present desire that the Board of Trade will be pleased to carry into immediate execution the Governors Instructions formerly sent to them on this Subject.

Signed

JOHN PAGE Lt. Gov<sup>r</sup>.

In Council March 4<sup>th</sup> 1780.

The Board of Trade will be pleased to inform Colo Legras and Major Lintot that their reasonable expences, up to the sixth of the present Month, will be paid by the Public, and that an Account thereof should be made out, to be settled by the Auditors up to that period. Provided that the above Instructions be complied with.

Signed

JOHN PAGE L<sup>t</sup>. G.

\* \* \* \* \*

In answer to the representations of Yesterday to the Executive respecting the requisition from the Board of War, that Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Board have been pleased to express themselves in the following terms

In Council March 4, 1780.

"The Board of Council wish to leave the Board of Trade to the free exercise of their own Judgment, of their Office, and think them the proper Judges of the Prices of the Articles to be purchased by their Agent"

Ordered that the following be addressed to the Executive

The Commissioners of Trade are sorry to be understood by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Board as intending to free themselves from any part of their duty by submitting the Requisitions of the Board of War for their determination; We conceived it our Duty to do so, as the Act establishing this Board runs thus

"The Duty of the said Board shall be to see to the procuring by importation or otherwise all Military Stores, Cloathing, accoutrements, utensils, materials & necessaries, which shall be required by the Governor, with the advice of the Council, for the publick use, or for the use of the Officers, Soldiers &c. It appears from hence that all Requisitions to this Board should at least be approved by the Executive, if not directly made by them; and it was this that induced us to lay the Requisitions of the Board of War before his Excellency in Council; for We could not legally comply with them untill approved; and this mode we have constantly observed ever since our establishment.

The following was received from the Executive

In Council Mar. 4. 1780.

Upon reconsidering the case of Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras the Board request the Board of Trade to furnish him with fifty Hogsheads of Tobacco in part of his demand against the State, in addition to the Bills of Exchange already delivered him,- also the Hogsheads to Capt. Lintot in part of his Demand.

A Copy

Test

H. RANDOLPH

Cl. Council.



(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)

Friday 17 March, 1780.

Ordered that the following be presented to the Board of War.

"We beg the Board of War will be pleased to furnish us with a Return of the deficient supplies which are absolutely necessary for the Officers and Troops destined on the Southern Expedition that we may take every step in our Power to procure them.- On a conference, His Excellency the Governor with the members of Council now present recommend the purchase of such Goods as are indispensably necessary for forwarding those Troops notwithstanding the exorbitant Prices now demanded, and which must go near to ruin the State.-

Ordered that the following be submitted to the Executive-

It appears from an Act of the last Session of Assembly that the Executive are empowered to make Sale of sundry State Vessels therein mentioned with the Proviso that they shall have power also to retain for the State such of the said Vessels as can consistantly with the public Interest be employed in the Commercial concerns of this Commonwealth.

The Commissioners of Trade beg leave to inform His Excellency and the Honble Council that we are unable to procure a sufficient number of Craft to transport the Tobaccos formerly engaged by the Executive to be delivered in York River to Mr. Defrancey in proper time and that the State must unavoidably incur an enornuos expence by the delay of said Tobacco unless we can be assisted immediately with the Ship Dragon or Tartar.

Mar. 18.

The following was received from the Executive in Answer to the representation respecting the ships Tartar and Dragon.

March 18th 1780

In Council.

The Ship Tartar<sup>84</sup> is transferred to the Board of Trade.

TH. JEFFERSON.

Saturday Mar. 18, 1780.

The following was received from His Excellency in Council  
Gentlemen

Mr. Nathan<sup>85</sup> having taken up Bills drawn on us to a considerable amount payable in N. Orleans, and having occasion for ten thousand Livres in France in part paiement, I am to desire you to furnish him with Bills of Exchange to that amount, carrying them to his debit; also that you will be pleased to take back the Bills you gave Col<sup>r</sup>.

<sup>84</sup>Captain William Saunders was appointed commander of the *Tartar*.

<sup>85</sup>Simon Nathan was a shrewd speculator in bills drawn on the State for supplies furnished in the West. See note in reference to him in Bodley, "George Rogers Clark," p. 230. The account given by Bodley of the treatment by the State of Virginia and the Federal Government of the financial claims of individuals on account of furnishing supplies and endorsing bills is very depressing reading. See especially his "George Rogers Clark," ch. XXII.

Legras on Penet & Co. he having received Satisfaction for them from M<sup>r</sup>. Nathan to whom he delivered Clarke's & Todds original draughts in exchange for M<sup>r</sup>. Nathan's Bills.

Ordered that Bills be drawn on Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Penet & C<sup>o</sup>. to the amount of ten thousand Livres in favor of M<sup>r</sup>. Simon Nathan in compliance with the above Instructions of the Executive, which are to be delivered M<sup>r</sup>. Nathan on Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras's delivering up the Bills formerly given him.- Letters be written to Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Penet & C<sup>o</sup>. advising them thereof. N. B. this Bill dated 20. Mar. See Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

The following was received from the Executive

It is recommended to the Board of Trade to procure for Col<sup>o</sup> Bufords Officers now under orders to march to Charles Town 50 yds. Cloth blue and white Cloth, 16 Suits Tremings, 40 Shirts with buttons, 30 pr of Thread Hose, 40 Handkerchiefs, 44 Summer Vests and Breeches.

Also for the Officers of Col<sup>o</sup>. Bland's Reg<sup>t</sup>. 60 Shirts 45 Summer Vests and Breeches, 30 Handkerchiefs, 30 pr Thread Hose.

Also for the Officers of Col<sup>o</sup>. Parker's Regiment<sup>86</sup> 60 Shirts 45 Summer Vests & Breeches, 30 Handkerchiefs, 30 pr Thread Hose, Cambrick and Thread for the Shirts.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to procure the above mentioned Articles agreeable to requisitions from the Executive as soon as possible to be delivered the Commissary of Stores for the use of the Officers of Colo Blands, Colo. Parkers and Colo. Bufords Regiments.

J. AMBLER  
DUN: ROSE.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From "*Correspondence of Thomas Jefferson*,"<sup>86</sup> edited by  
Worthington Chauncey Ford, p. 2.)

Sir, Williamsburg, Mar. 19, 1780.

Since writing to Your Excellency on the subject of the expedition against Detroit, the want of men, want of money and difficulty of procuring provisions with some other reasons more cogent if possible, and which cannot be confided to a letter, have obliged us to decline that object. I thought it therefore necessary to notify this to Your Excellency that no expectations of our undertaking it may prevent any enterprize of that kind which you may have had in contemplation. That nest is too troublesome not to render the relinquishment of the attempt to destroy it very mortifying to us.

I have the honor to be with all possible esteem and respect,<sup>87</sup> Your Excellency's most obedient humble servt.

TH: JEFFERSON

<sup>86</sup>This refers to Colonel Richard Parker's regiment, the First Virginia, Continental Line. His command was captured at Charleston. He himself had been killed some days before the capitulation. Henry Lee, in his "*Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States*," p. 160, speaks in a most complimentary way of him.

<sup>87</sup>This book was printed in Boston in 1916 and is made up of letters in the collection of William K. Bixby, of St. Louis, Missouri, secured by Mr. Bixby in 1912 from George P. Coleman, of Williamsburg, Va.

(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)

Tuesday March 21. 1780

The following was received from his Excellency

One hundred and ninety Dollars are allowed for the within Services (Mon<sup>r</sup>. Francois Bosserons)<sup>88</sup> in hard Money. The payment of which the Board of Trade is desired to negotiate.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to satisfy Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras, or whoever has the right of claiming in behalf of Mons<sup>r</sup>. Francois Bosserons, with the value of one hundred & ninety silver Dollars: We being directed to pay so much, by his Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency having referred to this Board the payment of a Bill of Exchange drawn by Oliver Pollock<sup>89</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>. on the late Governor for three thousand five hundred spanish mill'd Dollars, which Bill is endorsed to, and this day presented by, Sam<sup>l</sup>. Griffin<sup>90</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>. and accepted by his Excellency

Ordered that the Agent endeavor to discharge the said Bill by payment thereof in Tobacco at such rate as may be reasonable it being impossible to procure Specie within the time limited for payment.

The following requisition was handed from the board of War

War Office March 20<sup>th</sup>. 1780.

We are informed Mr. North has a valuable Cargoe just arrived you will be pleased to have purchased for the State all that part of the Cargoe that will be serviceable to the Troops also we recommend the purchase of thirty one Hats of M<sup>r</sup>. Abraham Jones, thirty firkins of Butter will be wanting for the Navy also a thousand weight of Rice.

JAS. BARON  
GEO. LYNE.

To which the Executive gave the following answer

March 21<sup>st</sup>. 1780.

Approved except as to the Butter which is supposed not to be included in the ration

TH. JEFFERSON.

The following was received from the Board of War in consequence of an offer of sundry Goods made them by Jesse Taylor

March 21. 1780.

Recommended to the Board of Trade the purchase of the within mentioned Colours.

Approved

JAS. BARRON.  
GEO. LYNE.

Signed

TH. JEFFERSON.

<sup>88</sup>Francois Bosseron was a leading citizen of Vincennes who enthusiastically supported Clark and the American cause.

<sup>89</sup>Oliver Pollock, Virginia's big-hearted financial agent in New Orleans, who was ruined financially by his advances of money and credit for Clark's expedition.

<sup>90</sup>Colonel Samuel Griffin had seen service in the Revolutionary War as aide-de-camp to General Charles Lee and as deputy adjutant general of the Flying Camp, and had been wounded at Harlem Heights. He was now a member of the Virginia Board of War.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to purchase thirty one Hats of Mr Abram Jones, and one thousand weight of Rice of also sundry Ship Colours offered by M<sup>r</sup> Jesse Taylor: in compliance with requisitions from the Board of War approved in part by the Executive.

The following was handed from His Excellency the Governor.

Orders to draw in favour of M<sup>r</sup>. Nathan a Bill on Penet & C<sup>o</sup>. for fifteen thousand Livres on Account of Major Lintot in part of his demand.

-to deliver M<sup>r</sup>. Nathan ten hogsheads Tobacco in part of his own debt

also a warrant to the Agent for £7125 Curr<sup>cy</sup>.

another Warrant to ditto for 3345. 17. 3. Curr<sup>cy</sup> is part of his own debt, allowing the difference of Exchange between Specie and Paper Money at present.

also an order to deliver M<sup>r</sup>. Nathan three sets of Exchange for 20,000 Livres each in part of Col<sup>o</sup> Legras's Bills.

March 21. 1780.

The Board of Trade will be pleased to draw the Bills of Exchange and warrants above mentioned and direct the Agent to deliver the ten Hogsheads Tobacco to M<sup>r</sup>. Nathan.

Signed

TH. JEFFERSON.

The following was handed from the Executive in Answer to the Agent & Commissary's Letter.

March 21. 1780.

The Council having explicitly guarded against admitting purchases from the Public Store by M<sup>r</sup>. Armistead and M<sup>r</sup> Day but on the "current purchase advance" in their original Agreement, and these Gentlemen being secured against Depreciation by receiving their Stipend in Tobacco at a fixed rate it is thought that no alteration should be made in the Original terms.

Signed

TH. JEFFERSON.

Mar. 21. 1780.

The Board of Trade will be pleased to direct their Agent to pay M<sup>r</sup>. Dickson (his Acco<sup>t</sup>) and charge the sum in Account to Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras.

signed

THO JEFFERSON.

Mar. 21. 1780.

The Board of Trade will be pleased to direct their Agent to pay the above (Wm Nicholson's Acco) and charge the sum in Acco<sup>t</sup> to Col<sup>o</sup>. Legras's.

signed

THO JEFFERSON.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to comply with the above Instructions



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. PRESTON.

*(From the Draper Manuscripts in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library, 5QQ24.)*

Williamsburg Mar. 21, 1780.

Sir.

I am sorry to hear that there are persons in your quarter so far discontented with the present government as to combine with it's enemies to destroy it. I trust they have no grievance but what we all feel in common, as being forced on us by those to whom they would now join themselves. had any such grievances existed complaint & refusal of redress should have preceded violence. the measures they are now taking expose them to the pains of the law, to which it is our business to deliver them. we must therefore avoid any irregularity which might give them legal means of withdrawing themselves from punishment. I approve much of your most active endeavors to apprehend the guilty & put them into a course of trial. the carrying them out of the county before an examining court is had on them, if their safe custody requires it must be yielded to: but if they can be kept safely without it, I should rather approve it. I suppose this may be done by strong guards of militia, which must be summoned, & subsisted & paid at the public expence. you seem to expect that writings may be found about them which will convict them of treason. should your evidence however not be such as the law requires in cases of treason where the punishment is capital, perhaps it may be sufficient to convict them of a misprision of treason which is punishable by fine & imprisonment at the pleasure of the court. I suggest this to you that you may not suppose them absolutely cleared if the evidence will not support the charge of treason.

I think it necessary that you should take the most immediate measures for protecting the lead mines, for this I know none so likely to be effectual as your calling on a sufficient number of the newly recruited soldiers (no matter for what service engaged) from the counties round about, which you are hereby authorized to do, rendezvousing them at the lead mines and putting into their hands the arms taken from the malcontents. the commissary in that department will subsist them. should you find it necessary a guard of militia must be called on in the mean time, harrassing the militia however is what I would wish to avoid if possible. by the time these new recruits are wanted to join their corps I am in hopes the danger with you will be over.

Nothing which I have heard gives me reason to fear any disturbance in your quarter with the Indians. Colo Clarke will be employed this summer in preserving peace with them. he will aid you if called on either in the case of invasion or insurrection. should the Indians molest you, your militia must be embodied according to the invasion law, till Colo Clarke can go to your assistance.

I am Sir with great respect

Your most obed<sup>t</sup>. humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON

*(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)*

Wednesday March 22.

The following was handed from the Executive

Mar. 22. 1780.

The Executive will not interpose to favor such a commerce (referring to a proposal contained in a Letter from Mr. Thoroughgood Smith of Accomack Mar. 16. 1780) with respect to exchanging Corn for Salt with a Bermudian Vessel) with Individuals as is herein proposed; but as great Quantities of Salt are wanting for public use and an immense Quantity lately required by Congress the Board of Trade will please to consider whether it may be beneficial to purchase the within Salt, giving not more than two Bushels of Corn in exchange for one of Salt"

signed

THO. JEFFERSON.

[The above is marked "countermanded" and marked through with cross strokes.]

On considering the above, the Board are inclined to purchase the Salt, therefore,

Ordered that a letter be written to Mr. Thoroughgood Smith requesting he will contract with Capt. Vesey, in behalf of the State, for the Salt he has imported upon the most advantageous terms he can, to be paid for in Corn, at no rate exceeding two Bushels of Corn for one Bushel of Salt; that he will be pleased to purchase the Corn on the best Terms possible, draw on us for the cost and have the Salt safely stored till the further Order of this Board.

[This entry is also stricken out in the original.]

Ordered that the following be presented to the Executive

The Commissioners of Trade beg leave to acquaint His Excellency in Council that from the little prospect there is of procuring the Supplies which are absolutely necessary for the Army in this State We wish to send a Person in whom we can confide to Philadelphia, and to furnish him with Tobacco Notes to the amount of three hundred Hogsheads for the purpose of purchasing in that City.- Mr. Jn°. Moss has transacted Business for the State for some time past, and We believe with care and fidelity, We therefore recommend him as a proper Person to be employed on this Occasion, if he will undertake it.

approved

signed

TH. JEFFERSON.

The Executive approving of sending a Person to Philadelphia to purchase Goods Ordered that Mr. John Moss be requested to attend their Board on saturday next to propose his terms if he will undertake the Business.

The following was received from the Executive

It occurs to the Executive that the Mr. Vesey at the Eastern Shore with Salt is the Person who came to this State with a flag for

the Exch<sup>a</sup>. of Prisoners, who applied for leave to sell some salt which he had brought for Balast, & to whom it was refused by the Executive on Acc<sup>t</sup>. of the Mischief of the Precedent permitting a flag to trade. it is therefore recommended to the Board of Trade to decline making any Proposition to him.

TH: JEFFERSON.

[This entry is also crossed out in the original.]

The following was handed from the Executive

The Board of Trade will be pleased to direct their Agent to State an amount on his Books with Colo Legras, Major Lintot & M<sup>r</sup> Anth<sup>y</sup> Gamilin, charging them therein with the Money Tobacco, or other things they have received from the State in part of their Demands the same with M<sup>r</sup> Nathan

signed

TH JEFFERSON.

March 22<sup>d</sup> 1780.

*(From Journal of the Board of Trade)*

Saturday March 25. 1780

The following was received from the Executive.

The Act of Assembly having directed a Sale of the Ships Tartar and Dragon, the Gallies Henry, Manly, Hero, Page, Lewis & Safe-guard, except such of them as may consistently with the public Interest be employed in the commercial Concerns of this Commonwealth, it is recommended to the Board of Trade to declare which of the said Vessels they are of Opinion should be retained under that exception.

TH JEFFERSON

To which the following answer was given.

The Ships Tartar and Dragon if immediately put under our direction will be a means of saving several thousand Pounds to the State in the Freight of the Tobaccos which the Executive engaged to deliver to M<sup>r</sup>. Defrancey in York River.

Ordered that a Letter be written to His Excellency the Governor in answer to his of the 23. Mar.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to comply with the Instructions contained in His Excellency's Letter of the 23.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to carry into Execution a Contract made by Duncan Rose Esq<sup>r</sup>. with Monsieur Defrancey in obedience to Instructions from the Executive.

The Contract was    100. lbs Tobo. for every Bushel Salt  
                              150 lbs D<sup>o</sup>. for every hundred weight of rice.  
                              100. lbs do 2½ Gall<sup>s</sup>. french rum  
                              100 lbs do for 1½ Gal<sup>s</sup>. Jamaica rum.

\* \* \* \*

In Council Mar. 25. 1780.

The Ships Tartar and Dragon are transferred to the Board of Trade.

TH JEFFERSON.

The Law requiring all Requisitions for purchases to originate with the Executive, or at least have the approbation of that Board; the Commissioners of Trade therefore cannot, consistently with their duty, determine on Col<sup>o</sup>. Harrison's and Capt Ragsdale's Cases, referred by His Excellency in Council to this Board.

\* \* \*

The following was received in consequence of the Answer sent His Excellency to His Letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> Instant,

In Council Mar. 25th 1780.

It is thought adviseable that the Vessel come round to the College Landing immediately. the Board of Trade can best judge at what place it will be most convenient for their Agent and Commissary of Stores to reside. to them therefore this board refers it.

TH. JEFFERSON.

MR. DUNCAN ROSE, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, TO  
GOV. JEFFERSON, WITH JEFFERSON'S RECOM-  
MENDATION TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

*(From the Board of Trade Papers.)*

Williamsburg 22<sup>d</sup> March 1780

His Excellency & the Hon<sup>bl</sup> Council will be pleased to recollect that during the Severe winter weather, when there was a pressing demand for Spirits, to supply the troops, at a time also when we hourly expected to be invaded by the enemy, I thought it my Duty to inform your Excellency, that I believed from a Conversation I had with Mr. De Franc y that he wou'd spare the State a Quantity of Taffia, & some good Rum for the officers; on such terms as were reasonable. I knew the Quantity of rice he wanted the State to take, was much more than we shou'd have occasion for, but as I consulted Dr Galt who assured me that 10,000<sup>lb</sup>. wou'd [be] wanted for the use of the State, and as Your Hon<sup>ble</sup> Board empower'd me to purchase from Mr. Taylor 800 Bushls salt which has been almost all lost by the Ice since Mr. De Franc y offer'd his on the Same terms, I thought 250 Bush<sup>ls</sup> cou'd not make any difference to the State as his Salt from the Sample was exceeding good French Salt, & a further inducement was the Credit for the Tobacco—another difficulty that I labour under is, that General Nelson made use of six Hhds for the troops station'd at York; 15Hhds more Mr. Wm. Mitchell for the use of the French 74 Gun Ship by Authority from His Excellency—This being entirely a transaction of mine the Board of Trade does not think proper to take any notice of it, without Instructions from His Excellency in Council; my honor is pledg'd to Mr. De Franc y for payment in Tobacco for the Rum & a proportion of the Salt & rice; the price of the rice was no higher than the price of Common flour per 100<sup>lb</sup> another Question that must arise is, to whom must look for Payment of the Rum? without instructions from your Hon<sup>ble</sup> Board to the Board of Trade, to whom the Rum Mr. Mitchell had made use of, must be Charg'd?

DUNE [DUNCAN] ROSE



In Council Mar. 25, 1780.

It is recommended to the board of trade to carry into execution the preceding contract.

TH. JEFFERSON.

(*From the Virginia Gazette, March 25, 1780.*)

Notice is hereby given that the business of government,<sup>90a</sup> in the executive department, will cease to be transacted at Williamsburg from the 7th of April next, and will commence at Richmond, on the 24th of the same month. The Governour will be in *Richmond* during the interval, to do such business as may be done by him, without the concurrence of the publick boards.

ARCH: BLAIR, C. C.

(*From Journal of the Board of Trade.*)

Thursday March 30. 1780.

A Letter laid before the Board from D. Rose Esq<sup>r</sup>. to his Excellency the Governor acquainting him that he had contracted with Sam<sup>l</sup>. Beale Esq<sup>re</sup>. for twenty one pieces of Ozenbrigs at the rate of twenty pounds of Tobacco Per y<sup>d</sup>. to which his Excellency gave the following Answer

Williamsburg 28. Mar. 1780.

The Expence to this State in particular which is occasioned by every day's detention of these troops, and the danger impending over Charles-Town renders it expedient for the public Good to approve of the above contract however exorbitant the price: I do therefore approve of it

signed

TH. JEFFERSON.

Ordered that the Agent be directed to pay Samuel Beale Esq<sup>re</sup> for twenty one Pieces Oznabrigs at the rate of twenty pounds Tobacco for each yard agreeable to the Instructions from His Excellency the Governor.

# GOV. JEFFERSON'S APPROVAL OF A SALARY SUGGESTED BY THE BOARD OF WAR.

(*From the Virginia State Archives.*)

War Office Wmsburg April 5, 1780-

Sir

We enclose for your Perusal Major Quarles' Return of the Men he has reviewed in his late Tour- he complains extremely of the Inattention of the County Lieutenants to the Execution of those Laws which fall within their departments. The Major has applied to us

<sup>90a</sup>The last entry in the auditor's ledger (preserved in the Virginia State Archives) headed Williamsburg is of April 10 and the first Richmond entries begin on May 8.

for some Compensation for his service. We have thought that six hundred dollars per month would not be an immoderate Allowance. We have therefore taken the Liberty to recommend that sum for your Excellency's Approbation—

We have the honor to [be] your Excellency's mo. ob. Servants

JAS. INNES

JA<sup>s</sup>. BARRON

April 5. 1780.

I approve of the allowance of six hundred dollars per month

TH: JEFFERSON.

JOHN HAY<sup>91</sup> TO GOVERNOR JEFFERSON,  
WITH JEFFERSON'S ENDORSEMENT.

(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.)

Richmond 1st April, 1780

Sir

In consequence of your polite & obliging Answer to me upon my application to borrow of the State 500lb Powder & your Request to apply to you in Williamsburg between this & the 7th Inst I have got Mr. John Fisher to wait upon your Excellency for a final answer about it. The Powder is wanted for an armed Vessel now lying at Four Mile Creek & will be ready to sail in about eight Days, & hope that it will be convenient for the State to lend me the above Quantity, & it shall be replaced in a reasonable Time. I shall esteem myself happy to have it in my Power to render you any service & be assured that I am most respectfully

Your Excellencys

Most ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOHN HAY

In Council W<sup>m</sup>sburg Apl 6th 80

Deliver to M<sup>r</sup> John Fisher for use of Mr Jn<sup>o</sup> Hay 500 lb powder, taking his note for the replacement thereof

To the Keeper of the Magazine  
(at Richmond)

TH. JEFFERSON

(From the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)

JOHN PAGE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

W<sup>m</sup>sburg April y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sir

The particular Situation of my Affairs has been such for some Time past, that I could not give such an Attendance at the Council Board as it was my Duty & wish to give. I therefore thought it im-

<sup>91</sup>Jno. Hay was Continental agent in Virginia.

proper any longer to hold an Office the Duties of which I could not with Diligence & Punctuality execute. I must therefore take the Liberty of resigning & beg through you Sir to signify to the General Assembly this my Resignation. I have the Honor to be with due Respect your

most obed<sup>t</sup> h<sup>ble</sup> Serv

JOHN PAGE

[Endorsed:] Letter of Resignation Jn<sup>o</sup> Page Esq.

May 9, 1780

to lie on table.

(From Journal of the Board of Trade.)

Friday April 7, 1780.<sup>92</sup>

The following was received from the Executive respecting the Disposal of the Slaves purchased on the States Account.

In Council April 7<sup>th</sup>. 1780.

The board of War being not likely to meet for some time it is thought best to continue these Slaves with the board of Trade until the division may be taken up at Richmond.

TH. JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 301.)

Richmond, April 10th, 1780.

Sir,

The State of the recruiting business in this Country is as follows: There are some draughted soldiers in different parts of the Country, but they are so far, so disposed, & enlisted for so short a time that we have not thought them worth the expense of gathering up. There is recruits raising under a standing law concerning Officers, Soldiers, Sailors & Marines, these are enlisted for the war by a person resident in each County, we have an Officer appointed who rides the circuit of the County once in two months to receive these men at certain places of Rendezvous, he has just finished his circuit, and we have sent on about fifty of these recruits under the command of Captn. Minnis to the Southward. All the Officers of the Virginia Line now

<sup>92</sup>The journal of the Board of Trade, preserved in the V. S. A., concludes with the entry of April 7.

The Board of War and the Board of Trade were both abolished by the General Assembly in May "for the purpose of introducing economy in the various departments of government, and for conducting the publick business with the greatest expedition."

The governor was authorized to appoint a commissioner of war, and a commercial agent, and with these to co-ordinate a commissioner of the navy, to be under the "controul and direction of the Governor and Council." Hening, X, 278, 291-2.

James Maxwell, naval agent under the Navy Board, was appointed commissioner of the navy. Colonel George Muter became commissioner of war, to be succeeded by Colonel William Davies. Thomas Smith continued as commercial agent, and William Armistead as commissary of stores.

in the State, who have (according to a request of the executive) applied for recruiting instructions & money, have received them. These have been given with a particular view of reenlisting such Soldiers of their respective Regiments, as are discharged, or are entitled to a discharge. I hear they are tolerably successful; as to the 1st & 2nd State Regiments particularly, there not having been money in the treasury enough to reenlist them at the time they became entitled to discharges, their Officers (as I am informed) postponed paying them off, gave them furloughs to visit their friends till the 1st of May, at which time they were to Rendivous [*sic*] at Williamsburg & Fredericksburg, and it was hoped money would then be ready for reenlisting them, in the meantime considerable sums have been furnished the Officers, and more will be provided, and there is good reason to hope this Judicious [*sic*] of their officers will enable us to recover most of them. Colo. Harrison's Regiment of Artillery is very considerably recruited. Under the preceding state of things, I do not know of any immediate Service with which we need to trouble you: perhaps you could be instrumental in getting orders from the proper authority for such of the above Regiments as are not ordered to the Southward to march thither by fifties as far as they are recruited. We have such orders for all the other new recruits not yet regimented; but I do not consider those as orders authorizing the march of men raised by the Officers of a particular Battalion for their Battalion, and that not under marching orders.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO PRESIDENT REED,  
OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(From "*Pennsylvania Archives*," VIII, 196.)

In Council, April 18, 1780.

Sir,

I have had the pleasure to receive your Excellency's favor of March 27<sup>93</sup> and am to return you our sincere thanks for your interposition in favor of the operations carrying on by General Clark, operations which I hope will result equally to the benefit of yours as of our State, and which if successful will give us future quiet in our western quarter. I beg you to be assured that Colo. Broadhead has been altogether misinformed as to any restriction having been laid on a M<sup>r</sup> Wilson or any other person in purchasing within this State cattle for the use of Fort pitt, or that if such a restriction actually took place, it was a private act in those who presumed to impose it, unauthorized by government & which would have been censured and rectified had it been made known. We are so sensible of the evils which would result from such a line of conduct, and so sincerely disposed to render the union of the States more perfect that we shall on all occasions endeavor to render to our neighbors every friendly office which circumstances shall bring within the compass of our powers.

I am further to thank your Excellency for the kind dispositions you entertain & the aids you were pleased to render to the expedition

<sup>93</sup>Not found.



under the Marquis of Fayette which was intended for the immediate relief of this State in particular, as well as for those furnished to General Greene for the southern service in general. Such is the present aspect of the war, that it does not seem very probable its circumstances should be so reversed as to place us in a situation of returning the favor in kind however we trust that while the contest was northwards our contributions of men, arms & other necessities were such as to prove we should not be wanting to our friends under a change of circumstances with respect to your State particularly we shall take very great pleasure in cultivating every disposition to harmony & mutual aid; that policy would be very unsound which should build our interest or happiness on any thing inconsistent with yours.

I have the honour to be  
with very great respect  
Your Excellency's  
mo ob Serv't  
TH<sup>s</sup>. Jefferson.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 446.)

Richmond April 19, 1780.

Sir, I have received information of many Murders recently committed by the Indians in Washington, Montgomery, Green-Briar, Kentucky and the neighborhood of Fort Pitt, tho the Nations by whom co[mmi]tted are not specified in the Information, the extent of the mischief [MS. *torn*] extensive combination. Incertain whether you were near enough at Hand to afford relief, and indeed rather expecting from your last Letter received that you are now at the mouth of the Ohio, satisfied at the same time that any Plan of enterprize determined and minutely directed here would prove abortive from want of Information and unforeseen Difficulties and Events, I have directed the Lieutenants of the Counties of Washington, Montgomery, Botetourt, Rockbridge and Green-Briar to assemble and concert, and immediately with a Portion of their Militia carry an Expedition into the Indian Country. To communicate their determinations to the Lieutenants of the Counties Northward of them between the Blue-ridge and Allegany who are also to assemble, concert, and execute similar offensive Measures with their Militia either by concurring in the same, or undertaking a separate Expedition; and those again to call for aids from the Counties West of the Allegany. They are to give Notice of their Plans to yourself, and should the combination of the Enemy appear still formidable for their Force I have desired them to ask such Assistance as you can give them, and in such way as you shall Think most effectual. Since the Conduct of the Indians has precipitated our meditated Chastisement of them, it seems to have determined on which of the Objects formerly submitted to you the first Efforts of the Campaign are to be directed. Nothing is more desirable than the total suppression of Savage Insolence and Cruelties, and should your Affairs be in a condition to admit your going in Person, and taking com-

mand of the whole expedition- The object is of sufficient Importance to require it, yet unacquainted as I am, with the present State of your forces, where they are, and how employed, I am afraid that your distance from the scene of action, or other unknown circumstances might produce a greater Measure of Injury to the Public by interrupting your present operations than they might derive of good from your co-operation. I therefore leave to your Discretion and Zeal for the good of your Country to determine whether, and in what manner to concur in this Expedition, still considering it as so important as to [recommend it] to you, if very great Injury to the public may not attend the cutting you off on that Business. I also write to Major Slaughter (as he is probably so distant from you) to lend his Aid if called on in the Manner I have mentioned to him. I have it not in my Power to give you precise Information of the numbers recruited for Col. Crockett, or time of their March. I experienced Mortification on every enquiry by [finding] that every Inquiry lessens my Hope both as to Numbers and dispatch. Nothing shall be left undone to forward them, and I do not Despair all together of their participating in the projected Expedition.

I am Sir Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>

TH. JEFFERSON.

P S Inclosed is an answer to your's of Feb. 22.

[Addressed:] Colo George Rogers Clark at the Falls of Ohio.

[Endorsed:] Received at y<sup>e</sup> Falls July 11th, 1780.

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 444.)

Richmond April 19. 1780

Sir,

Your Letter from Louisville of February 22'd-80 came safely to Hand. In answer to your Observations on the Spot proper to take Post on at the Mouth of Ohio we can only give our cordial Sentiments leaving the ultimate Determination to your Prudence on view of the Ground, as we can neither make the particular spot we would elect to be what we should wish nor recommend to you to take Post on it if Nature has rendered it unfit.

The Point of Land at the Mouth of the Ohio on the south side is the precise spot which would have been preferred had nature formed it capable of Fortification but this we were apprised was subject to inundation. How deep the Waters, may occasionally be there, we are quite uninformed and therefore are unable to decide on your Proposition for banking them out as at New Orleans. In general, undertakings of that nature are expensive, and not without great Danger that Floods of unexpected Magnitude may overwhelm the Works and Garrison, or that an enterprising Enemy may find Means to let in the water. Yet if those Lands lie so high as to be very little under Water, those objections become small in proportion, and may perhaps be less than that of taking the Post at a situation less favorable for vigilance over the Trade of the two rivers. Of this you will judge when you see the Lands and know the height of Inundation they are subject to. If

this Place should be rejected, and we were to decide between two Posts one of which should be on the Ohio, the other on the Mississippi below the Mouth of Ohio equally near the Mouth, and equally proper in every other respect, we should prefer the one on the Mississippi because it would command a greater Part of the Trade than the other; for I take for granted more trade will go down the two Rivers to Orleans than down one river to the Mouth and up the other. If the question is between two Situations on the north and south side of the Ohio, equal in other respects, the one on the south side would be greatly preferred. Indeed this circumstance would weigh against a good Degree of other superiority for Reasons which cannot be trusted to a Letter: Yet it would not so far weigh as to prefer a Post which cannot be made tenable to one which can. You describe a high Ground on the north side of the Ohio three or four miles above its mouth, yet the Mississippi, so near in that Part as that a Town might reach from the one to the other and a small river mouthing at the same place and forming a commodious Harbor for Vessels. This indeed is tempting, as in such a case the navigation of both rivers would be under your Eye as effectually as at the Mouth of Ohio, and holds out such advantages as may get the better of the objections to its being on the north side. However you must finally decide on view of the whole. As to the kind of Fortification I imagine you proposed in the first Place to build a Stockade for temporary Purpose. The Post is so important really as to merit Works of the best kind, but on this it would necessary to consult the Legislature who would be to provide for the Expence. In the mean Time I imagine you will think it well first to plan & lay off the good works you would propose, and then build your temporary Fort so as to encourage them and protect those who should be working on them, or, if this would be too large to be manned by your Force, the temporary Work might be built within the Lines laid off for the good. When you shall have determined on your spot we should be glad to receive a minute description of it with a plan of the good Works you would propose to erect not meaning however thereby to suspend the temporary Works.

I am Sir Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>

TH. JEFFERSON

[Addressed:] Colo. George Rogers Clarke at the Falls of Ohio  
[Endorsed:] [Jefferson April 19<sup>th</sup> 1780]

# CERTIFICATE OF BALANCE DUE BEAUMARCHAIS.

*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

I certify that M<sup>r</sup>. Lazarus De Francey Agent for M<sup>r</sup> Beaumachais & C<sup>o</sup>. has a Ballance due to him from the State of Virginia amounting to the Sum of one hundred & Sixty one thousand six hundred & three pounds thirteen Shillings with Interest from the first day of July 1778 at 6 P Cent per annum & that the drafts of the said M<sup>r</sup> De Francey to be drawn on M<sup>r</sup> William Armistead Commissary of Stores for the amount aforesaid will be duly honoured-



The above Balance of one hundred & Sixty one thousand Six hundred & three pounds thirteen Shillings is Stated as due to M<sup>r</sup> De Francey upon a supposition that two thousand hogsheads of Tob<sup>o</sup>. part of which has been delivered & part still to be delivered shall weigh one thousand weight each nett. In case the Tob<sup>o</sup>. shall weigh more or less there is to be an addition or subtraction to or from that Sum as the Case shall require- Given under my hand & the Seal of the Commonwealth in Council at Richmond this twelfth day of May 1780-

THO: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON RIEDESEL.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 302.)

Richmond, May 13, 1780.

Sir,—

Your several favors of Dec. 4, Feb. 10, & Mar. 30 are come duly to hand. I sincerely condole with Madam de Riedesel on the birth of a daughter, but I receive great pleasure from the information of her recovery, as every circumstance of felicity to her, yourself or family is interesting to us. The little attentions you are pleased to magnify so much never deserved a mention or thought. My mortification was that the peculiar situation in which we were, put it out of our power to render your stay here more comfortable. I am sorry to learn that the negotiations for the exchange of Prisoners has proved abortive, as well from a desire to see the necessary distresses of war alleviated in every possible instance, as that I am sensible how far yourself & family are interested in it. Against this however is to be weighed the possibility that we may again have a pleasure we should otherwise perhaps never have had, that of seeing you again. Be this as it may, opposed as we happen to be in our sentiments of duty & honor, and anxious for contrary events, I shall nevertheless sincerely rejoice in every circumstance of happiness or safety, which may attend you personally. And when a termination of the present contest shall put it in my power, to declare to you more unreservedly how sincere are the sentiments of esteem and respect (wherein Mrs Jefferson joins me) which I entertain for Mad'me de Riedesel & yourself, and with which I am, Sir, Your most obedient & most humble servant.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO JACQUELIN AMBLER,  
OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

(From the Virginia State Archives.)

In Council May 23. 1780

Sir

During your absence Speaker Harrison applied to me to let him be furnished with some guns from the foundry, a note of which he furnished Mr Reeveley & afterwards Colo Fitzgerald applied for the within; I promised both provided it was not inconsistent with any



contracts, orders, or purposes of your board; the Speaker to be first supplied and Colo Fitzgerald next. you will be pleased to direct a compliance with these engagements as far as they were meant to be absolute.

I am Sir with great respect.

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

TH: JEFFERSON

*(From the Manuscript Journal of the House of Delegates for the  
May, 1780, Session.)*

May 24<sup>th</sup> 1780.

Resolved that General Andrew Lewis, George Webb, and Jacquelin Ambler Esquires be appointed Members of the Privy Council or Council of State in the room of Honb. John Page, Thomas Blackbourne and David Meade Esq<sup>rs</sup> who have resigned. Also that Leighton Wood and Harrison Randolph Esq<sup>rs</sup> be appointed Auditors of Public Accounts in the room of Thomas Everard and James Cocke Esquires who have resigned they having been so elected by joint ballot of both Houses of Assembly.

In the house of Delegates

Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> May. 1780.

Resolved that the Governor be desired and empowered with the advice of the Council to appoint Proper persons to purchase such horses and Accoutrements as may be necessary to mount and equip the light Dragoons raised within the State for the Continental Army.

[This was agreed to by the Senate the next day.]

Friday, May 26.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, enclosing one from a council of officers, held at Botetourt courthouse and their determination on the subject of an offensive and defensive war with the Indians; which were read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of the whole House on the state of the Commonwealth.

Monday, May 29.

Report of Committee of Trade:

It appears to your committee, from a certificate of Mr. Archibald Blair, clerk of the Council, that the said Alexander Wiley, agreeable to the directions of the Governor and Council, packed up and attended the removal of the records and papers, belonging to the different executive boards at Williamsburg, to the town of Richmond, where he faithfully delivered the same.

[Then follows resolution that Wiley's petition for compensation is reasonable.]

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF SPECIFIC  
TAXES FOR AUGUSTA COUNTY.

*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

Richmond May 30. 1780-

*Gentlemen.*

Be pleased to deliver for the use of this State to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Eaton & Brown, or order, whatever indian corn, oats rye, or barley you may have received for the public. Your wheat you will please to have properly manufactured and packed. No return being yet received from your County I shall hope to receive one without delay-

I am

Gentlemen.

Y<sup>r</sup>. hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE,  
BENJAMIN HARRISON.

*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

In Council May 30, 1780.

*Sir,*

I beg leave through you to communicate to the General Assembly the inclosed letters [manuscript torn] nce and to subscribe myself with greet [manuscript torn] Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup>.

& most humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

[The enclosed letters are from Governors Nash and Rutledge, of North and South Carolina in regard to the surrender of Charleston.]

*(From Manuscript Journal of the House of Delegates.)*

Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup>. of May 1780.

Resolved that the Governor be desired, on account of the low state of the Treasury, to suspend the purchase of horses to mount the cavalry for the present.

\* \* \* \*

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, enclosing one from the President of Congress, with a resolution of that body calling for an immediate supply of money, which were read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Governor, enclosing letters from Governors Nash and Rutledge of North and South Carolina, respecting the situation of affairs in South Carolina, which were read, and ordered to be referred to the committee of the whole House on the State of the Commonwealth.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES, BENJAMIN HARRISON.

(From the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)

Sir,—

In Council June 8, 1780.

According to the advice of the General Assembly we have proceeded to take measures for selling six hundred thousand weight of the public Tobacco. to do this as readily as possible we determined to allot for this purpose the Tobacco at the nearest Warehouses, and particularly four hundred thousand at the warehouses at or near the Falls of James River and on Appomattox.

We have now an offer for this quantity to be paid for at the market price, the Crop Tobacco on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, the transfer in Bills on Philadelphia, to be drawn now, but not payable till six weeks, hence. As it was probably the sense of the Assembly, that this sale should be for ready money, we have not concluded this agreement, till we know whether it will be approved, nor should we have entertained such a negociation but that we have no prospect of selling for ready money. The Credit of the Gentlemen proposing to purchase is such in Philadelphia, as will probably render their Bills immediately negociable there. It is necessary for us to give them a definitive answer today.

I am Sir

Y very hble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SIMON NATHAN.

(From Virginia State Archives.)

Sir,

June 9<sup>th</sup> 1780<sup>94</sup>.

Your obliging offer of serving the State in the purchase of Supplies for the Officers and Men stationed at Pittsburg is accepted, and a Memo of such Supplies as are now wanted is herein inclosed.

I am

Sir

Your most obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS,

(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 304.)

Sir,—

Richmond, June 9th, 1780.

I had the honor of receiving your requisition for 1.900,000 Dollars & of laying the same before the General Assembly then sitting. They

<sup>94</sup>On June 9th Gov. Jefferson also wrote to Col. James Wood, superintendent of the "Convention" prisoners at Charlottesville, an important letter in respect to the possible removal of those prisoners to a safer place. The letter has not been found, but see Col. Wood's reply, dated June 15, in "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 361.

immediately took measures for complying therewith. As we had not the money in our treasury it became necessary to raise it partly & principally by a sale of property, and partly by borrowing. These operations requiring some time it is absolutely impracticable, however earnest their desires have been, to place it in Philadelphia by the day proposed. I hope however I shall not be disappointed in my expectations of being able to send from hence by the 20th inst. nearly the whole sum or perhaps the whole in money, or in good bills on Philadelphia payable on such short day as will render them equal to money.

On receiving from the board of war notice of the aids which would be necessary to forward on the Maryland and Delaware lines, I consulted with your Deputy Quartermaster in this State, and gave him every aid & power which he asked. He left me with the most confident assurance that waggons to move the whole corps should be with them in two days from that time. Why he quitted his station and State at the moment when every exertion was called for to forward a respectable body of troops to the relief of a sinking State & Army should seem to be worth enquiring. The mortifications I have experienced from the repeated disappointments which flowed from the devolution of his duties on Deputies acting without a head, without concert, or communication with one another, have been as great as if they had been really the cause of those unfortunate events they were calculated to produce. The artillery & 1st. division moved after a few days' delay only; but the second division are but just now enabled to proceed.

Our information from the Southward has been at all times defective, but lamentably so on the late occasion. Charlestown [*sic*] had been in the hands of the enemy 24 days before we received information of it. Their movements since that event are handed to us very imperfectly. The inclosed intelligence from Governor Nash seems to indicate an intention to penetrate as far Northwardly as they can. Whether under these appearances it may be expedient to send further aids to the Southern States can only be decided by Congress on a view of the operations which they may have in contemplation elsewhere. I have no doubt such aids will be sent unless greater good to the general union will be produced by employing them where they are. In either event great supplies of military stores are immediately requisite here. North Carolina has none at all, those of South Carolina are in the hands of the enemy and ours inadequate to the arming our own militia. As far as they will go, they have been, and will be cheerfully submitted to the common use. Some members lately of our executive, but now of your honourable body, are able to give you a state of our stores, which I consider as a more safe communication than by confiding it to paper. Of musket cartridge paper, and car-touch boxes particularly we are so destitute that I must pray Congress to send us an immediate supply. These articles are so light too, that a single waggon if sent without delay may furnish a time and considerable relief.

About seventy new recruits for Colonel Washington's horse, being now in this State & utterly unfurnished, will be provided with all necessities by us.



We are informed that the greater part of the Continental horse to the Southward are reduced to the same helpless condition. Some infantry also have applied for military furniture. Gibson's & Brent's battalions which went into Continental service full armed were disarmed when returned to us. They are now recruited to about 200 men, and will be modelled for service. We shall again put arms in their hands, as no motives will induce us to let the general good labour even a moment for want of anything we have. But it would be very satisfactory to us to receive the pleasure of Congress as to the mode of authenticating any advances of this kind which we shall make for them: some of the applications having been necessarily made by subordinate officers.

The removal of our Seat of Government to this place has withdrawn us from the post road. A rider employed by some private gentlemen furnishes a precarious conveyance to Hanover-town, the nearest place on the post road. This has rendered all our communications with Congress and the other States very uncertain & our Southern ones particularly circuitous and slow. I believe there can be no doubt but that were the post directed to pass from Hanover Courthouse immediately through this place, by Petersburg &c. it would shorten the distance and still more time by crossing James river and Roanoke where they are narrow and always passable; whereas the present post road crosses where they are wide and tempestuous.

I beg leave to submit the expediency of this alteration at this time particularly to the wisdom of Congress assuring them it is considered as very desirable here.<sup>95</sup>

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 308.)

Richmond June 11th, 1780.

Sir,

Majr. Galvan as recommended by your Excellency, was dispatched to his station without delay, and has been furnished with everything he desired as far as we were able. The line of expresses formed between us is such as will communicate intelligence from the one to the other in twenty-three hours. I have forwarded to him information of our disasters in the South as they have come to me.

Our intelligence from the Southward is most lamentably defective. Tho' Charlestown has now been in the hands of the enemy a month, we hear nothing of their movements which can be relied on.

<sup>95</sup>On June 29 the committee to which Jefferson's proposal as to the road was referred, brought in a report:

That Governor Jefferson be desired to continue the line of expresses from Richmond to Philadelphia agreeably to his proposal; and that he continue them till farther orders of Congress and that he be desired to inform Congress as soon as may be of his proceedings herein.

*Resolved* That Congress approve the line of communication which Governor Jefferson, as it appears by his letter of 15, is forming, by expresses, southward and northward, and that the same be continued until the further order of Congress.

Rumors are that they are penetrating Northward. To remedy this defect I shall immediately establish a line of expresses from hence to the neighborhood of their army, and send thither a sensible judicious gentleman to give us information of their movements. This intelligence will I hope be conveyed to us at the rate of 120 miles in the 24 hours. They set out to their stations tomorrow. I wish it were possible that a like speedy line of communication could be formed from hence to your Excellency's headquarters. Perfect & speedy information of what is passing in the South might put it in your power perhaps to frame your measures by theirs. There is really nothing to oppose the progress of the enemy Northward but the cautious principles of the military art. North Carolina is without arms. We do not abound. Those we have are freely imparted to them, but such is the state of their resources that they have not yet been able to move a single musket from this state to theirs. All the wagons we can collect have been furnished to the Marquis de Kalb, & are assembling for the march of 2,500 militia under Genl. Stevens of Culpeper who will move on the 19th inst. I have written to Congress to hasten supplies of arms & military stores for the Southern states, & particularly to aid us with Cartridge paper & cartridge boxes, the want of which articles, small as they are, renders our stores useless. The want of money cramps every effort. This will be supplied by the most unpalatable of all substitutes, force. Your Excellency will readily conceive that after the loss of one army our eyes are turned towards the other, and that we comfort ourselves if any aids can be furnished by you without defeating operations more beneficial to the general union, they will be furnished. At the same time, I am happy to find that the wishes of the people go no further, as far as I have an opportunity of learning their sentiments. Could arms be furnished I think this state & North Carolina would embody from ten to fifteen thousand militia immediately, & more if necessary.

The following is a state of the force in and about to be in motion:

|   |       |      |
|---|-------|------|
| Colo. Buford's regulars (of Scott's Woodford's men..            | 400   |      |
| Colo. Porterfield's do. of Virginia State troops.....           | 500   |      |
| Colo. Armand's horse.....                                       | 190   |      |
| The remains of White's & Washington's as is said<br>about.....  | 200   |      |
| The Maryland & Delaware troops & artillery.....                 | 1900  |      |
|   | <hr/> | 3190 |
| Virginia militia.....   | 2500  |      |
| North Carolina militia under Genl. Caswell in the<br>field..... | 400   |      |
| do. embodying under Govr. Caswell if they can be<br>armed.....  | 4000  |      |
|   | <hr/> | 6900 |

I hope e're long to be able to give you a more certain statement of the enemy's as well as our situation, which I shall not fail to do. I inclose you a letter from Majr. Galvan, being the second I have forwarded to you.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>96</sup>Major Galvan, or de Galvan, was a Frenchman serving in the American army. He was frequently somewhat of a stormy petrel. His mission to Virginia was an

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES, BENJAMIN HARRISON.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 360.)

Sir

In Council, June 14, 1780.

In a Letter which I had the Honor of addressing you on the meeting of the present General Assembly, I informed you of the necessities which had led the Executive to withdraw our Western troops to the Ohio—Since the date of this letter, I have received the inclosed of the Second instant from Coll: Todd, communicating the measures he had adopted in conjunction with Colo: Clarke to procure such a Settlement contiguous to the Post which shall be taken as may not only strengthen the garrison occasionally, but be able to raise provisions for them. as the confirmation of these measures is beyond the powers of the Executive, it is my duty to refer them to the General Assembly. it may be proper to observe that the grant of Lands to Col<sup>o</sup>. Todd was made on a supposition that the post would be taken on the North side of the Ohio, whereas I think it more probable it will be on the south side in the Lands lying between the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi and Carolina boundary. These lands belong to the Chickasaw Indians, who from intelligence which we think may be relied on, have entered into a war with us.

The expenditures of the Illinois have been deemed from some expressions in the act establishing that county<sup>97</sup> not subject to the examination of the board of Auditors as the auditing these accounts is very foreign to the ordinary office of the Council of State, would employ much of that time and attention which at present is called to objects of more general importance, and as their powers would not enable them to take into consideration the justice and expediency of indemnifying Col Todd for his losses and services, as desired in the enclosed Letter from Him, of the thirteenth instant, they beg leave to submit the whole to the consideration of the General Assembly—

I have the honor to be with great respect & esteem,

Sir, Your most obedient,

& most humble servant

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 312.)

Sir,—

Richmond, June 15, 1780.

I received your Excellency's letter inclosing a resolution of Congress of the 5th inst. for the establishment of a line of expresses from Cape Henry to Philadelphia. I had before on the request of Gen'l

important one. He brought to Governor Jefferson from General Washington a letter informing him confidentially of the expected arrival on the coast of the United States of a French fleet and of the appointment of gentlemen as lookouts at various points, of whom Major Galvan was to be stationed at Cape Henry.

<sup>97</sup>See Hening, X, 303.

Washington formed such a line from Cape Henry to this place. I therefore thought it better to execute your desire by continuing the line from this place Northwardly, as it would save expence by availing you of what had been done before, and will probably render the conveyances more certain & expeditious than they would be were they to cross the bay to Cape Charles, or to cross James river to Hampton. The uncertainty of the former passage is well known to all; and the latter ferriage is of eighteen miles, which frequently employs a day in the passage. I am forming a like line from this place to the neighborhood of the enemy's army in Carolina, sending thither a confidential and judicious person to collect & to convey intelligence of their movements and to continue there so long as their operations shall be so very interesting as they are at present. I mention this latter circumstance to your Excellency because before the receipt of your letter I had made it the ground of a suggestion to Gen'l Washington whether it might not be proper (in order to give him the benefit of our Southern communications) to establish such a line from hence Northwardly. Congress having in the meantime desired the establishment of such a line, I am only to submit to them whether when the communication from Cape Henry to this place shall be rendered unnecessary by the arrival of the French fleet, it may not still be expedient to continue for a time the riders from hence to Philadelphia. These riders being stationed at distances not too great for a horse to pass without rest, and being ordered to travel by night & by day without regard to weather, I shall hope will convey intelligence at the rate of 120 miles the twenty-four hours, which is a much greater dispatch than can be expected from the post, should a post be established on this road.<sup>98</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. NASH, OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(From "*State Records of North Carolina*," XIV, 852.)

Richmond, June 16th, 1780.

His Excellency Governor Nash, Newbern.

*Sir:*

The tardiness and uncertainty of intelligence from the Southern States, & the very interesting situation of things there at present, have induced me to send Colo. Monroe,<sup>98a</sup> a sensible, judicious & confidential person, to the neighborhood of the hostile army, for the purpose of collecting & communicating notice of their movements. He is attended by a sufficient number of expresses to station one at every 40 miles distance from hence to the termination of his line, where he will keep with him a Serjeant & single horseman, these having instructions to bring on his letters by night & by day, without regard to weather. Intelligence will come to us at the rate of 120 miles in the 24 hours. I thought it proper to inform Your Excellency of this meas-

<sup>98</sup>On June 29, 1780, Congress resolved: "That Congress approve the line of communication which Governor Jefferson, as it appears by his letter of 15, is forming by expresses, southward and northward, and that the same be continued until the further order of Congress." (See "*Journals of the Continental Congress*," XVII, 575.)

<sup>98a</sup>This was Col. James Monroe, afterwards president of the United States.



ure, as well because it might afford you a ready & safe conveyance for any communication with which you may please to Honour me, more especially if you should think proper to establish a similar line of communication with Col. Monroe, as that I might recommend that Gentleman to your patronage, aid and confidence. Should any circumstances arise in which the general good would be thereby promoted, Col. Monroe will inform your Excellency of the stations he shall take from time to time, and will take pleasure in communicating to you any intelligence he shall obtain, if you have no better means already established. The same difficulties of correspondence with Genl. Washington have induced me to take the liberty of suggesting to the Genl. the expediency of his establishing a like communication with this place.

The situation of the Convention troops in our country has rendered it necessary on every occasion to be watchful of every movement of the enemy which might terminate in an attempt to rescue them, which, with large bodies of cavalry, & by rapid marches, they might think practicable. I have therefore directed Colo. Wood to form a line of communication from the Barracks to the enemies' army in the same manner I do from this place, to send a trusty officer to watch their motion. I do not know who this gentleman will be, but beg leave to recommend him also to your Excellency's protection when he shall be made known to you.

Since writing so far, I have received a requisition of Congress, in conjunction with Governor Lee, to form a line of riders from Cape Henry to Philadelphia. This I have accordingly done, conducting the line through this place.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest esteem,  
Your Excellency's most obedient & very humble Servant,  
THOMAS JEFFERSON.

*(From the Wood Papers, in the Virginia State Archives.)*

In Council June 20th 1780.

The Governour laid before the Board a resolution of the General Assembly of the eighth instant in the following words to wit "In the house of delegates the 8th of June 1780. It appearing that the Officers of the Convention Troops at the Barracks in Albemarle county have purchased up a considerable number of horses, which if permitted to be kept by them will create a great scarcity of forage in those parts to the prejudice of the State. Resolved that the Governour be desired to require all officers and soldiers belonging to the convention troops immediately to dispose of all horses in their possession except such as they may by the articles of convention at Saratoga be entitled to keep and if any officer or soldier shall refuse within twenty days so to do that proper persons be appointed to seize the said Horses; that they be sold at public auction and the money accruing therefrom paid to the respective proprietors" Teste Jn<sup>o</sup> Beckeley Chd [Clerk House of Delegates] June 14th 1780 agreed to by the Senate Will Drew." Whereupon they advise the Governour to direct the com-

manding Officer at the Barracks to require all officers of the said convention troops, quartered at the Barracks to make sale of their horses agreeable to the said resolution to report his opinion as to the number of horses which those officers not resident at the barracks should be permitted to keep each according to his rank in order that the surplus if any may be sold and that those horses which for the present they will be permitted to keep should also be sold so soon as quarters shall be provided at the Barracks for the said officers as stipulated in the Convention of Saratoga.

A Copy.

ARCH: BLAIR C. C. <sup>99</sup>

*(From Journal of the Council.)*

Monday June 26. 1780.

The Gov. is advised to direct Col<sup>o</sup> Muter to take measures for selling immediately on the best terms he can the Ships Tartar & dragon, retaining such Guns & other Materials of the s<sup>d</sup> Vessels as he shall think useful.

That the Militia called to the several stations of the Western frontier may be formed into Companies commanded by Off<sup>rs</sup> of Proper rank The Gov<sup>r</sup> is advised to recommend to the County Lieutenants to send from their counties respectively the following officers, Botetourt a Capt<sup>n</sup>, Rockbridge a Lieu<sup>t</sup> Green Brier an Ensign, Augusta a Capt<sup>n</sup> & Ensign, Rockingham a Lieu<sup>t</sup> Hampshire a Lieu<sup>t</sup> & Ensign, Kentucky a Capt<sup>n</sup> & an Ensign. And it is recommended to the Lieu<sup>t</sup> of Frederick & Berkeley to consult & the officers to their Proportion of Men so as to form one Company.

The Gov. with the advice of Council appointed Commissioners in the several Counties for the purpose of carrying into execution the Act of the present session for the use of the army, and proper instructions were sent to each of them (see the same registered in another book) <sup>100</sup>

*(From Journal of the Council.)*

Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup> 1780.

The Governor is advised to direct the clothier to issue the stores of cloathing now on hand for the Officers & Soldiers in the following manner viz

What is proper for Officers to be iss<sup>d</sup> so as to make up the half allowance for the 1<sup>st</sup> year-to all the Virg<sup>a</sup> Off<sup>rs</sup> in captivity to the southward-to all those in service to the S<sup>o</sup> ward to all those going on service to the S<sup>o</sup> Ward & to all those of Col<sup>o</sup> Bufords batt<sup>n</sup> who have had their baggage taken by the enemy, tho not going into service.

<sup>99</sup>There is preserved in the Virginia State Archives a mutilated volume of Council proceedings for a part of the years 1779 and 1780. The undamaged part of the volume which deals with Jefferson's administration extends from June 23d 1780 to July 8th of the same year. The entry of which the above is a copy has been cut out.

<sup>100</sup>The other book spoken of has not been found.

What is proper for souldiers to be iss<sup>d</sup> so as to make up necessary clothes to the following corps & in the following order viz Gens Gibsons & Brents men-Scots brigade viz Parkers Heaths & Bufords battalions- Harrisons Artillery-Whites & Washingtons cavalry to the S<sup>o</sup> Ward -the remains of the State garrison & artillery regiments in this State & Col<sup>o</sup>. Taylors regiment of guards.

That to enable himself to make the issues the clothier endeavour to get the returns of the several corps made compleat, as also that he inform himself of the issues already made to the sev<sup>l</sup>. Officers & privates before described and what ought to be taken into acct on the present issues so as to put all on an equal footing; that the dividend of cloaths for the Officers & soldiers in captivity be reserved & properly packed for sending to the S<sup>o</sup>ward & that if the Stores on hand shall prove insufficient, he make report of the deficiencies to the Executive.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 313.)

Richmond, June 28, 1780, 9 o'clock P. M.

Sir,—

The want of intelligence of the Southern movements of the enemy, and the anxieties we have felt on that account, cannot have been less experienced by Congress. Having just now received a state of things as they are at present in that quarter, from Governor Nash,<sup>101</sup> & from Colo. Monroe (the gentleman who in a former letter I had informed Congress I had sent to hang as near as he could about the enemy's principal post & inform me of their movements by riders posted between us for that purpose) I take for granted Congress will be glad to have it communicated. I therefore have thought the occasion sufficient to set in motion the line of riders established from hence to Philadelphia, with orders to them however to return immediately to their fixt stations, that they may not be out of the way to receive the particular communications for the conveyance of which they have been established.

The embarkation spoken of by Gov'r Nash & Colo. Monroe, cannot have been destined for this state, or they would have been here before this; had they reached our capes by yesterday, I must have known it by this hour.

Governor Nash, at the time of writing his letter seems not to have heard of the motions of our militia. It is certain however that some of them were at Roanoke on the 20th and that the whole have got that far by this time, being 2500 in number.

I have been greatly mortified at the detention of the important supply you had called for, so much longer than I had expected. I had every reason to believe it might have been sent from hence by the

<sup>101</sup>"A letter, of 28 June, from Governor Jefferson of Virginia was read, enclosing a copy of a letter of 25, from Governor Nash." *Journal of Continental Congress*, July 3, 1780.

19th. It does not however go off till to-morrow. It will I hope be nearly what I had given you reason to expect in my letter on that subject.

P, S. The Quarter-master has provisions on board vessels ready to proceed to the Head of Elk, which however he dares not send into our bay, that having been for some time occupied by from seven to eleven privateers, the largest of 20 guns, who take whatever goes out of our rivers. Our provisions when collected whether destined for the Northward or Southward will be effectually blocked up. Land-transportation cannot possibly be procured.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. PRESTON.

*(From the Draper Papers in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library, 5QQ36.)*

Richmond June 28. 1780.

*Sir*

Since my last letter to you we have concluded to send from hence fifty stand of arms for the regulars at the mines, which with a few at Colo Fleming's & such as you have fit for service will arm the regulars at the Leadmines so that they may escort the ammuniton to Kentucky & render an escort of militia unnecessary. such of the arms as you have, unfit to be delivered to them, be pleased to send to this place by the waggons gone up with Indian goods or by the one now going with new arms. we are at present so distressed by calls of men to the Northward & Southward that it is out of our power to send any to your quarter. I hope the prospect we have of doing something brilliant by the union of a large army collecting by Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington & that of our allies hourly expected will more than balance our losses at Charlestown & keep the Tories in quiet and that in the mean time the good people with you will be particularly vigilant.

I am Sir with great esteem

Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>

TH: JEFFERSON

[Endorsed:] Governours Letter June 28<sup>th</sup>. 1780 came to hand the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1780

[A letter of Governor Jefferson, dated June 30,  
was read in Congress July 12.]

*(From Letter Book of the Commissioner of War.)*

June 29, 1780.

In consequence of the Reduction of the Garrison of York, I am directed by the Governor & Council to give instructions to the Commanding Officer there, to discontinue the Armorers and Blacksmiths Shop as well as every other unnecessary expense at the said Post.



*(From Journal of the Council.)*

Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup> 1780.

The Gov<sup>r</sup> laid before ye board a Lr. from Col<sup>o</sup> Mallory of Eliz City informing him of the appearance of a fleet supposed to be hostile in Chesapeake bay & hampton road. Whereupon they advise the Gov<sup>r</sup> to inform Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson that if an actual invasion shall take place & a sufficient number of men be embodied to authorize them under the law to appoint a Gen<sup>l</sup> Officer, they mean to ask his assistance in that Character; that in the mean time he be desired to repair to those parts threatened w<sup>th</sup>. invasion, that he advise the County Lieut<sup>s</sup>. in those quarters as to the number of Militia they sh<sup>d</sup> embody, the place or places of rendezvous, and other measures proper for them to take, that he take measures for raising a troop of volunteer horse, the troops to find their own horses & saddles, and accoutrements also as far as they can, deficiencies in the articles of accoutrements with rations & forage to be supplied by the State, that they enter immediately on duty under such persons as he shall direct to take command, until officers shall be duly appointed; that another troop of volunteer horse be raised in the neighborhood of this place, to enter into service at a moments warning, on the same terms; that he have power to call on the keepers or possessors of any public arms or ammunition in the lower country to deliver it to his order or otherwise dispose of it as he shall direct, and to call on all Commissaries & Q. M<sup>s</sup> of the State for supplies & aids of their departments; that he give necessary orders for removing to a place of safety all public property in W<sup>m</sup>sburg, or elsewhere in the lower Country, which it may be expedient to remove; and that if any emergencies shall arise which may require the exercise of the other Powers not herein communicated, and the public safety will not admit the awaiting for a regular communication, he be desired to do what in his discretion he shall think requisite for the good of the state, informing the Gov<sup>r</sup> thereof as early as possible and in so doing he shall stand justified by the Executive so far as their legal powers of justification extend.

The County Lieutenants or other commanding officers of the Counties from which Militia were lately ordered to the S<sup>o</sup> Ward are hereby authorized & required to take effectual measures for taking the delinquents of their C<sup>ty</sup> under the act of this present session of Ass: for raising a body of Militia for the relief of S<sup>o</sup> Carolina and to have them sent under a sufficient guard of Militia to Petersburg or any other Post where there may be regular forces either of the Continent or this State, and there deliver them to the commanding officer of such forces: and that such guard be authorized to draw necessary provisions & forage from any Commissary Q<sup>r</sup> Master, or Commissioner who may have them in his hands of the property of this State: Certificates of the men so delivered to be returned to the Executive.

The board advise that as the Stock of liquors, sugar, tea & coffee on hand is small & the means of procuring them very limited, they be iss<sup>d</sup> only to Officers & Souldiers while on actual duty.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

*(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 315.)*

Richmond, July 2d, 1780.

Sir,—

I have received from the Committee of Congress at headquarters three letters calling for aids of men & provisions. I beg leave to refer you to my letter to them of this date on those subjects. I thought it necessary however to suggest to you the preparing an arrangement of Officers for the men: for tho' they are to supply our Battalions, yet as our whole line officers almost are in captivity I suppose some temporary provision must be made. We cheerfully transfer to you every power which the Executive might exercise on this occasion. As it is possible you may cast your eye on the unre-employed Officers now within the State, I write to Genl. Muhlenburg to send you a return of them. I think the men will be rendezvoused within the present month. The bill indeed for raising them is not actually passed but it is in its last stage, and no opposition to any essential parts of it. I will take care to notify you of its passage.

I have, with great pain perceived your situation; and the more so as being situated between two fires, a division of sentiment has arisen both in Congress and here, as to which the resources of this Country should be sent. The removal of Genl. Clinton to the Northward must of course have great influence on the determination of this question; & I have no doubt but considerable aids may be drawn hence for your army unless a larger one should be embodied in the South than the force of the Enemy there seems to call for. I have the honour to be with every sentiment of respect and esteem Your Excellency's Most obdt. hble. servt.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

*(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 316.)*

Richmond, July 2, 1780.

Sir,—

I have received and shall duly comply with the recommendations of Congress for corresponding with your Committee at Headquarters. It having been necessary to lay their & your requisitions before the General Assembly, it has not been within my power to give any effectual answer till within these few days; & now only on the article of provisions. I beg leave to refer you to my letter to them of this date, a copy of which I enclose. The frigates now in our bay will probably retire. Were it possible for you to find means of clearing our bay of the privateers which have for some weeks infested it, we should be ready by the last of this month to send on our supplies. I think that Genl. Clinton having carried so considerable a part of the Southern army to the Northward, will leave it in our power, exercising the discretion you have been pleased to leave to us, to send a considerable portion of the grain we shall have to the Northern army, unless a

larger force should be embodied in the South than the present strength of the enemy seems to call for. I should conceive that to embody there more than double the number of the enemy would be a waste of exertion both as to men & provisions.

As it is expected our assembly will rise in the course of the present week, I shall then have it in my power to give an answer on the several subjects stated in a late letter from you, by informing you what is, and what is not done, and what also may be expected from the Executive in consequence of any powers the Legislature may vest them with.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS AT HEADQUARTERS.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 317.)

Richmond, July 2, 1780.

Gentlemen,— I have received three several letters which you did me the honor of writing on the subject of supplies of men & provisions to the grand army. The compliance with these requisitions not lying within the extent of my powers, I immediately laid them before the General assembly then & still sitting. A bill is now passed by them enabling me to call into public use whatever provisions may be spared by our citizens; and this is put into a train of execution. I hope it will enable me to furnish the quantity of salted meat called for by Congress, & I think within a short time. Congress have left us to determine whether we can spare any grain to the Northward. It will not be in my power to say whether we can or not until I shall receive a return from those commissioned with the execution of the act, which shall not be till the last of this month. I can assure you of the strongest disposition to contribute everything within our power to aid the Northern operations, but it is necessary to apprise you of one circumstance. Transportation by land has been little practised in this country. We have therefore few waggons, & a great part of these have been lately drawn to the Southward. Transportation by water has been cut off for some time by the privateers which have been constantly cruising in our bay. These have been from six to eleven in number, the largest carrying twenty guns. To them are added at present eight frigates; tho I can scarcely believe these mean to continue. In this situation nothing can venture out of our rivers— The Quartermaster has salted provisions for your army actually laden on board vessels, and a considerable supply of corn ready to send. But we see no prospect of getting it up the bay. The same causes will obstruct our supplies to the Southern army except from those parts of our country bordering on Carolina.

The assembly have before them a bill for supplying by draught 5,000<sup>102</sup> regulars to serve eighteen months. This I have no doubt will pass. It's execution will probably take a month, counting till the general rendezvous of the levies in this country. Hence I fear that should Congress call them Northwardly they will not be ready to co-operate with the main army till late in August.

<sup>102</sup>The act as passed provided for only 3,000. See Hening, X, 257.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*Richmond, July 3<sup>d</sup>. 1780-

Sir,

I have receiv'd advice from Col<sup>o</sup>. Preston of a dangerous Insurrection on New River. He thinks the Insurgents will attempt to destroy the Works at the Lead Mines, and has called on the Militia of Washington and Botetourt to oppose them. As this is an Object requiring more immediate attention than the one on which you were lately appointed, I am to desire you will a second time take in hand those Parricides: and if they have proceeded, as we have heard, to actual murder, to recommend that you take such effectual Measures of Punishment as may secure the future safety of that Quarter. The Militia of Washington, Montgomery and Botetourt are already called on by Col<sup>o</sup> Preston. You will therefore put yourself at their head and apply to this Object the Means & Powers put into your Hands for the Indian Expedition.

I am, &amp;c.

TH<sup>s</sup>. JEFFERSON

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WM. PRESTON.

*(From the Draper Papers in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library 5QQ38.)*Richmond July 3<sup>d</sup> 1780

Sir

The measures you have taken for the preservation of the Lead mines by calling in the militia of Montgomery Washington and Botetourt are as wise as could have been advised, and as effectual as, in the present State of things, can be administered. The distress of the Western Frontier is much too general to confine Crocket's battalion to a single part. It is indispensably necessary that he proceed to aid in taking posts to cover the Western Country & occasionally to join Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke. As little are we able to send any assistance from below the blue ridge as from that Country 5000 Militia are marched and to be marched to Carolina. It is in our power therefore only to approve of your calling on the militia of the Counties before mentioned; and in order to enforce your calls I write to the Lieutenants of Washington & Botetourt. Col<sup>o</sup>. William Campbell lately gone up to undertake an expedition of another kind, as it now appears more necessary to turn his arms against our internal enemies, I write to him to do so, former experience having proved him very equal to such a duty. In this as in other cases generally active offensive enterprises are to be preferred. It will probably be better to seek the insurgents & suppress them in their own settlements than to await their coming, as time and Space to move in will perhaps increase their numbers. however at this distance we cannot pretend to give precise orders, but leave the direction of proper measures to the discretion of those who



may be in command. Should exigencies require it you will extend your call of Militia to such other Counties as may be necessary.

I am Sir

Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>

TH: JEFFERSON

[Endorsed:] Governours Letter July 3<sup>d</sup>. 1780—came to hand the 18<sup>th</sup>. July. [In Draper's handwriting]: Col. Clark - Col. Campbell to go on expd<sup>n</sup>. Col. Crockett's battalion.

(From Journal of the Council.)

Monday July 3<sup>d</sup> 1780.

Cap. Jas. Barron is appt<sup>d</sup> commodore of the armed Vessels of this Commonwealth & confirmed accordingly.

Wednesday July 5. 1780.

Congress having recommended to the Executive to carry into effect their resolve of Ap<sup>l</sup> 8. 1777 for the education of Hugh Mercer youngest son of Gen<sup>l</sup> Mercer dec<sup>d</sup>, the board app<sup>t</sup> Jas Mercer Mann Page & W<sup>m</sup>. Fitzhugh esq<sup>rs</sup> or any two of them to settle all acct<sup>s</sup> of expences incurred for his education, & make report thereof to this board.

The board advise the Gov<sup>r</sup> to recommend to Col<sup>o</sup>. Muter to give orders to the Q Master to engage as many persons as they can skilled in the different branches of the Waggon Makers business to be employed under M<sup>r</sup>. Moody in making Waggon for the public service. Also that they contract with private undertakers for as many new waggons and geer as they can not exceeding one hundred to be delivered to this place at certain times within 3 months from this date, at prices not exceeding 65 times their former cost.

Thursday July 6<sup>th</sup> 1780.

The Clothier is directed to issue hunting shirts to all the Soldiery of the Virg<sup>a</sup> forces either in continental or State Service.

The Gov. is advised to recommend to Col<sup>o</sup> Muter to give orders that several belts, waist belts & Caps be procured for the Militia Cavalry ordered to the southward-also to order that the said cavalry be removed from Petersburg to Manchester or Warwick there not being sufficient forage for them at Petersburg.

Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup> 1780

Present

His Exc<sup>y</sup>

D. Jameson, W. Fleming, A. Lewis & G. Webb Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

The Gov<sup>r</sup> is advised to recommend to Col<sup>o</sup> Muter to employ some Proper person to Purchase that part of the Estate of Andrew Sprowle, known commonly by the name of Gosport, in Norfolk County, for the Purpose of a Shipyard, & the able male Slaves of the s<sup>d</sup> Estate for the Public.

Application having been made to the board for rent due from the Public for the use of the L<sup>d</sup> Mines, and the said title to the s<sup>d</sup>.

Mines being disputed between the administrators of the late Jn<sup>o</sup> Robinson dec<sup>d</sup> the representatives of the late Wm Byrd dec<sup>d</sup> & others, the board advised the Gov. to desire the Atty Gen<sup>l</sup> to proceed by bill of interpleader or otherwise as he shall think best to have the title legally settled between the Claimants that the State may be justified in making payment of the rents arrear & incurring.  
[Here the Council Journal ends.]

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. EDWARD STEVENS <sup>103</sup>

(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 319.)

Richmond, July 19, 1780.

Sir,—

I think it proper to inclose you a Paragraph from a late Act of Assembly putting the Militia with you under martial law; it is the only part of the Act which relates at all to the Militia, for which reason I do not send the whole Act, the Clerks being very busy. This Act having been made after the Militia went on duty may perhaps be thought by them to be in the nature of an *ex post facto* law; but as it is in your power to restrain its penalties from all Acts previous to its promulgation by you and even, if you please, from all subsequent ones except desertion, and such others as you shall find necessary, they may perhaps think it less hard.

(From Letter Book of the War Commissioner.)

To Lt Thos Bayant  
of the State Garrison Reg<sup>t</sup> Willib<sup>z</sup>

Sir

The Supreme Executive have judged it necessary a full enquiry should be made into the loss of Arms, Wrappers &c at Cumberland

GOV. JEFFERSON TO JAMES MADISON.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 319.)

Dear Sir,—

Richmond, July 26, 1780.

With my letter to the President I enclose a copy of the bill for calling in the paper money now in circulation, being the only copy I have been able to get. In my letter to the Delegates, I ask the favor of them to furnish me with authentic advice when the resolutions of Congress shall have been adopted by five other States. In a private letter I may venture to urge great dispatch and to assign the reasons.

<sup>103</sup>General Edward Stevens, though little heard of now, was one of the best of our Virginia Revolutionary officers. He was major of militia at Great Bridge and in 1776 was made colonel of the 10th Virginia. He distinguished himself both at Brandywine and Germantown and was advanced by Congress to the rank of brigadier-general. At Camden he commanded a brigade of Virginia militia which behaved badly, but through no fault of his; and this same brigade at Guilford Court-house fought like veterans. Its commander, disposed to take no chances, had placed behind his troops a line of sentinels with orders to shoot down any who wavered. Gen. Stevens was himself badly wounded in the battle.

The bill on every vote prevailed, but by small majorities; and on one occasion it escaped by two voices only. Its friends are very apprehensive that those who disapprove of it, will be active in the recess of Assembly to produce a general repugnance to it, and to prevail on the Assembly in October to repeal it. They therefore think it of the utmost consequence to get it into a course of execution before the Assembly meets. I have stated in my public letter to you what we shall consider as authentic advice, lest a failure in that article should increase the delay. If you cannot otherwise get copies of the bill, it would be worth while to be at some extraordinary expense to do it.

Some doubt has arisen here to which quarter our 3000 draughts are to go, as Congress directed 5000 militia to be raised and sent to the Southward, including what were ordered there and these 3000 (which I think will be 3500) draughts are raised in lieu of so many militia.

The matter seems clear enough when we consider that a fourth or fifth of the enemy's force are in S. Carolina. It could not be expected that N. Carolina which contains but a tenth of the American militia, should be left to support the Southern War alone, more especially when the regular force to the Northward and the expected aids are taken into the scale. I doubt more whether the balance of the 1,900,000 Doll. are meant by Congress to be sent Northwardly, because in a resolution subsequent to the requisition of the sum before mentioned, they seem to appropriate all the monies from Maryland Southward to the Southern military chest. We shall be getting ready the balance in which great disappointments have arisen from an inability to sell our tobacco, and in the meantime wish I could be advised whether it is to go Northward or Southward. The aids of money from the State through the rest of the present year will be small, our taxes being effectually anticipated by certificates issued for want of money and for which the sheriffs are glad to exchange their collections rather than bring them to the Treasury. Congress desired N. Carolina & Virginia to recruit, remount, & equip Washington's & White's horse. The whole has been done by us except as to 200 saddles which the Q. M. expects to get from the Northward. This draws from us about six or seven hundred thousand pounds, the half of which I suppose is so much more than was expected from us. We took on us the whole, because we supposed N. Carolina would be considerably burthened with calls for occasional horse, in the present low state of our Cavalry, and that the disabled horses would be principally to be exchanged there for fresh.

Our troops are in the utmost distress for clothing as are also our Officers. What we are to do with the 3000 draughts when they are raised I cannot foresee.

Our new Institution<sup>104</sup> at the College has had a success which has gained it universal applause. Wythe's school is numerous, they hold weekly Courts & Assemblies in the Capitol. The professors join in it, and the young men dispute with elegance, method & learning. This single school by throwing from time to time new hands well principled, & well informed into the legislature, will be of indefinite value. To James Madison

<sup>104</sup>This refers to Geo. Wythe's law class.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON,  
PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 322ff)

[The paragraphs printed in smaller type are marginal notes in the original.]

Richmond, July 27. 1780.

Sir,—

According to the desire of Congress, expressed in their resolutions of the 17th ult. I shall endeavor to inform them what has been done by this state in consequence of the several resolutions there referred to

1779.

Mar. 9. Recommendation to the States to compleat their respective quotas of 80, battalions.

1780.

Feb. 9. United States to furnish their respective deficiencies of 35,211 men on or before the 1st of Apr.

May 20. The United States to forward their quotas of troops to join the Continental army.

The assembly at their session in May 1779 (being the first after the recommendation of Mar. 9.) desirous not only of furnishing their quota of troops then wanting, but to provide permanent means for keeping up the same by voluntary enlistments, passed an act for appointing a recruiting officer to be resident in every county, whose occupation it should be constantly to endeavor to enlist within his county souldiers to serve during the war. That the officer might be industrious he was allowed a premium of 150. paper dollars, then worth 12½ hard dollars for every man he enlisted: that the people within the county might encourage the recruiting service, they were to have credit in any future draughts for all the men their recruiting officer should raise: and the souldier was to receive a bounty of 750 paper dollars, then equal to 62 ½ hard dollars, the advantage of laying out his pay in the public store at the hard money prices, and the other usual donations of clothes and lands. These encouragements however did not fully answer our expectations. The assembly therefore at their next session in Oct. 1779 took supplementary measures for raising their quota by endeavoring to re-enlist, for the war, their souldiers whose times of service would expire within the ensuing year. This essay also failed to produce their quota of men, even as settled in the resolutions of Feb. 9. 1780. The Executive therefore immediately ordered nearly the whole of their troops which had been reserved for the particular defence of the state to join the Continental army to the Southward. That some idea may be formed of the proportion of their quota which this addition affected, I beg leave to refer to the inclosed state No. 1. made out from the returns therein referred to which have been made to me, their dates being from Oct. 13. 1779 to March 5, 1780, except as to the state troops ordered into service as above, whose numbers are entered as they marched the 2d. of May following. To these may be added something upwards of 300 new recruits there en-



gaged for the war, of whom no return having been regularly made they are not entered. The assembly which met in May of the present year passed one act for sending 2500 militia into the field, which has been carried into execution: and another for raising by way of draught one fifteenth of the whole number of our militia, which after all probable deductions they count as upon 3000. men. These are to serve as regulars till Dec. 31. 1781, and will be rendezvoused about the last of the ensuing month.

1779.

May 21. United States called on for a tax of 45,000,000 D. in addition to what was called for 2d. Jan. to be paid by 1st. Jan. next.

Sep. 13. Circular letter, among other things stating the necessity of paying into the Continental treasury the monies called for & of adopting measures to bring their respective quotas of troops into the field early next campaign & provide for supplies necessary in the course of it.

By the resolution of Jan. 2 and 5. 1779. Virginia was to pay for the year 1779, 2,400,000 Doll.=720,000£. For the year 1780, 1,000,000 [D]=300,000 [£]. By the resolution of May 21. we were to pay between Feb. 1 & Oct. 1. 7.200.000 [D]= 2.160.000 [£] making in the whole 10.600.000 [D]= 3.180.000 [£]. I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed No. 2, a very imperfect state of our disbursements for the Continent. Whenever the books of our Auditors shall be put under a proper course of Examination many other articles of expenditure for the Continent will doubtless be found which have escaped the present hasty examination. By this state it appears that we have answered for the Continent since May 21. 1779. 4,404,440—13£= 13,681,368½ Dollars. There are still very considerable warrants out, which we have assumed; some of them partly unpaid, some wholly so.

1779.

Oct. 6. 7. United States to collect and pay into the Continental treasury their respective quotas of 15,000,000 D. monthly from Jan. inclusive to Octob.

9. Circular letter urging the necessity of a punctual payment of the quotas.

1780.

Mar. 18. Sundry resolutions for calling in the bills in circulation and emitting new bills on certain funds.

The assembly which was sitting when the resolution of Oct. 6. 7. came to hand, passed acts for increasing the public taxes and for borrowing money in order to enable them to comply with the requisition of Congress. The subsequent resolutions however of Mar. 18. 1780. as to the same money having rendered it necessary for the assembly to make a corresponding change in their measures, they passed at their late session the inclosed act No. 3, to which I beg leave to refer Congress, and to assure them at the same time that the moment I can receive authentic advices that five other States shall have acceded to the resolutions of Mar. 18. this act shall be put into a course of execution.

1780.

May 19. The states from N. Hampshire to Virginia inclusive to pay into the Continental treasury 10,000,000 dollars in thirty days.

This requisition could not be complied with in point of time for reasons explained in my letter to your Excellency of June 30. 1780.

With that we sent on in money and bills 1,430,239  $\frac{8}{9}$  Dollars. We are still to send on 522,960  $\frac{1}{9}$  Dollars to make up our whole quota of 1,953,200 Doll. unless the resolution of June 17 was meant to appropriate this requisition to the supply of the military chest in the Southern department. There is no other balance due from this State whereon that resolution can operate, as will be perceived by my observations on the resolutions of May 21. On this head I pray instructions from Congress.

1779.

Dec. 11. Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, N. Jersey & Connecticut certain quantities of flour & corn by 1st of April.

1780.

Feb. 25. United States to furnish their respective quotas of specific supplies mentioned.

It is not in my power to state with accuracy what is done towards furnishing these supplies. Extensive orders have from time to time been given out, which have been carried, and still are carrying into execution; but no returns are made which enable me to say what is precisely done. On receipt of the resolution of Dec. 11. notice was given to the Continental Q. Master, that we should be ready to give him orders for the grain which was then coming in under an act of assembly which had laid a specific tax in grain. What would be the amount of this, was not then known. We since find that what we allotted to Continental use amounted to about 80,000 bushels of short forage. Part of this has been received and the rest we are collecting for the Continental Quartermaster & Commissary, to the posts recommended by Genl. Washington. This no doubt is counted in part of the subsequent requisitions of Feb. 25. Large orders are out for the purchase of beeves. Considerable quantities of specifics have been furnished to the troops marching to the Southward. Our endeavors indeed have been much disappointed by the insufficiency of our revenues to answer these, and the calls for money for other purposes. Our ultimate dependance for supplying deficiencies in the articles of meat, flour, salt, short forage & rum, is on the Act No. 4 herewith transmitted.

A specific tax in tobacco is payable on the 31st. day of December next. Of this about 3725 hogsheads were appropriated as a fund whereon to borrow money under the calls of Congress of Oct. 6 & 7. 1779. But another provision for this call being made by the act No. 3. these tobaccos remain unappropriated & of course free to be applied by the assembly according to the requisitions of Feb. 25. They will have brought in under the same specific tax as much as would make up the residue required. Whether they may think proper to change the appropriation of it for this purpose, or how otherwise they will furnish it is for them to determine.

It would have given me great pleasure to have been able to show Congress that their requisitions had all been complied with in this state accurately in time, quantity & every other circumstance. It will doubtless occur that some of these requisitions were difficult in their nature, that others were new in experiment, and all of them on as large a scale as the people think themselves equal to. In states more

compact, experiments, tho' new and difficult, are made with promptitude, their defects soon discovered and readily supplied. In those of greater extent they are carried into execution with less vigor and punctuality, and the time for complying with a requisition expires frequently before it is discovered that the means provided were defective. The time necessary for convening the legislature of such a state adds to the tardiness of the remedy, and the measure itself is so oppressive on the members as to discourage the attempting it, but on the last emergencies. These and other considerations will readily occur to Congress, and will refer to their true causes any inaccuracies which may have occurred in the execution of their desires.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA OFFICERS IN CONTINENTAL SERVICE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)<sup>105</sup>

The late commanding officers of regiments in the V. Line in Cont: service.

Richmond July 28. 1780.

Sir,

It has become necessary on the settlement of our account of arms furnished the Continent to produce vouchers for the numbers. when our regiments went first into continental service, most of them were full armed. no receipts or certificates however were taken at the time. it remains that we supply this omission in the best manner we can, which is by application to the field officers who has [*sic*] command in the several regiments to certify as nearly as they can by memory at what time their regiment was taken on the continental establishment, whether they were armed by the state and carried those arms into the continental service, and how many they carried. Duplicate certificates will be wanting, the one to send to Congress the other to retain here in case of accident happening to the one sent. as you had command in one of those regiments give me leave to ask the favor of you to send me certificates of the nature above described as to your regiment, as exactly as your memory will enable you to do, as we are now preparing to send on such an account to Congress. I shall be much obliged to you to avail yourself of the first safe conveyance of the certificates to me.

I am Sir,

Your very humble servant,

TH: JEFFERSON.

32 copies made out and forwarded.

<sup>105</sup>This letter and all others for the remainder of this year (1780) the sources of which are indicated "letterbook" are from a photostat copy of a letterbook carried off by Gen. Benedict Arnold and now preserved in the British Museum. The date of the first letter in this book is July 27, 1780; of the last, Sept. 18, 1780.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO WILLIAM ARMISTEAD.

*(From the Virginia State Archives. A. L. S.)*

In Council July 31. 1780.

Sir,

Till the appointment & qualification of a Commercial agent, we are forced to put on you all the duties of that office. you will perceive by the inclosed letters that a compromise as to the recaptured vessel may perhaps be obtained if the master has proper authority to compromise. this would be more agreeable to us than to go into a court of admiralty. I inclose you the letters to undertake the compromise. whatever you agree to you will of course keep open for the confirmation of the Executive.

It is said a considerable quantity of goods have lately come to this place. you know what is wanting and how extremely we want, to make up the half year's allowance of clothing for the officers remaining in the country. we also shall be glad to take as much as can possibly be bought on reasonable terms, of whatever will do for souldiers. blankets are most especially & immediately wanting. if as many as 400 at least of these can be got in stores or elsewhere we wish it to be done immediately. paiment may be made in either money or tobacco. I am Sir

You very humble serv<sup>t</sup>

TH: JEFFERSON.

[Endorsed] Governors letters & the necessary Papers relative to the Compromise w<sup>th</sup> the Recaptor of the N Hampton.

July 31<sup>st</sup> 80

Governors letter ab: the Brig Northampton.

[Directed:] Mr. William Armistead Commissary of Stores.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES CALLAWAY.

*(Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Colo: James Calloway, Bedford,

Richmond August 1st. 1780.

Sir

Your proceedings in sending a party immediately to apprehend those who are concerned in the conspiracy you describe, were very proper as is your keeping a sufficient guard for their security. such of them whose offence amounts to high treason had better be tried as soon as possible before the examining court and sent down if found guilty. I mean this of the ring leaders those who have enlisted others into the conspiracy, or who have accepted of commissions. the more ignorant and insignificant who give proofs of sincere repentance and may be useful as witnesses to convict the others had better not be put under prosecution. The reason is that if they be prosecuted & convicted of treason the Executive have no power to pardon; by keeping them out of a course of law, the executive will have in their power to recommend them to the Legislature at their meeting in



october to be the subjects of an act of pardon, if their conduct in the mean time shall be such as shews they merit to be so recommended. they must however be disarmed till further orders. you will doubtless be assisted in your proceedings by the attorney for the commonwealth in your county. I can therefore add nothing but exhort you to a continuance of the vigilance and decision with which you have begun to spare no means of securing the offenders by guards, assured that in so doing you will meet the public approbation which you have merited. I send you forty one blank militia commissions and a copy of the act for punishing crimes of a treasonable nature, but not amounting to treason. we have not in any instance undertaken to remit the penalty of the Law obliging the delinquents of the militia to serve eight months conceiving that the exercise of this power should be left with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Stevens to be put in use at the time of their attending on him if circumstances shall justify it. it is therefore best that those from your county should proceed to him immediately carrying with them your recommendation, which will doubtless have its proper weight in their favor with the General.

I am sir,

Your most obedient serv<sup>t</sup>

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. CHARLES LYNCH.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1780.)

Colo: Charles Lynch,<sup>106</sup> Bedford

Richmond August 1. 1780.

Sir,

It gives me real concern to find that there is any one citizen in the commonwealth, so insensible of the advantages which himself and his posterity must derive from the present form of Government [original illegible] they can expect on a return to dominion under a foreign State, as to wish to return to it. I suppose that they have maturely considered the matter before they took the dangerous step they have ventured on, that they have made up their minds and reasoning on the subject is vain. it remains to determine what shall be done. the most vigorous, decisive measures shou'd be continued for seizing every one on whom probable proof of guilt shall appear. those who have been the leaders of the combination, who have enlisted others into it, or who have accepted of commissions from the

<sup>106</sup>Col. Charles Lynch, living near Alta Vista in that part of Bedford County which was soon (1782) to be erected into Campbell County, has the unenviable reputation of giving the words "lynch" and "lynching" to the language. It is probable, however, as maintained by Miss Ruth Early in her book "Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches", just published (April, 1927) —see pp. 195-197— that Col. Lynch and his followers, though they may have gone somewhat outside of the law in dealing with Tories and desperadoes, were never guilty of taking the lives of their opponents, severe floggings being the means of putting down opposition. The General Assembly in 1780 passed an act of indemnity.

Colonel Lynch was a brave soldier, serving with conspicuous gallantry at Guilford Courthouse. He was the brother of John Lynch, the founder of Lynchburg.

enemy, shou'd be tried before an examining court for high treason, and if found guilty sent here for further trial. those smaller offenders, who have barely assented to it, whose unequivocal proofs of repentance give assurance of a real change of opinion and who may be useful as witnesses to discover the whole plot, and convict the offenders it wou'd perhaps be better to disarm but not to put into a course of legal prosecution. a pardon is what in any other case might be granted them to qualify them as witnesses, but in the case of high treason the executive have no power of pardon: that rests with the Legislature who will not meet you know till october. your activity on this occasion deserves great commendation, and meets it from the Executive. The method of seizing them at once which you have adopted is much the best. you have only to take care that they be regularly tried afterwards. no expence of guards must be spared as far as they shall be found necessary, and the sooner those found guilty can be sent down the better. the attorney for the Commonwealth in your county will doubtless advise you in your proceedings to which I can add nothing but an exhortation to continue the energy with which you have begun to suppress these parricides of their county before they shall have further leisure to draw other innocent men into the same danger.

I am sir, with great respect

Your most obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

His Excellency General Washington.

Richmond August 2nd 1780.

*Sir,*

In obedience to the act of our assembly, a copy of which I now do myself the honor of enclosing you, I am in the name of the General Assembly "to request you to proclaim pardon to all deserters from the Virginia Line of the continental army who shall within two months after the publication of the act which took place about a week ago return to their several companies if on land, and if at sea within two months after their return, and serve during the war if so engaged and if otherwise shall serve two years over and above the time for which he or they engaged."<sup>107</sup> The capture of the Virginia Line<sup>108</sup> took place during the session of the assembly and probably was not known when this act passed. this will account to your Excellency for the requisition to deserters to join their companies and will no doubt point out to you the necessity of changing it in that part. your Excellency having had experience of the efficiency of proclamations can better judge what expectations may be formed from the one now asked. from that part of the act which makes

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<sup>107</sup>Hening, X, 265.

<sup>108</sup>At Charleston, on the 12th of May 1780.

it the duty of the militia captains to seek for deserters I do not hope that very good effects will proceed. I have the honor to be with every possible sentiment of esteem and respect

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble ser<sup>t</sup>,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

*(From the Letter Book of the War Commissioner.)*

August 3, 1780.

Cap<sup>t</sup> Paul Thilman,  
Hanover C<sup>t</sup> House:

It is determined by the Supreme Executive that Cap<sup>t</sup>. La Mothe with any other prisoners that are at Hanover Courthouse shall be sent to Winchester for the purpose of being exchanged \* \* \*

August 4, 1780

Samuel Smith Esq.  
Merchant Baltimore

It is the wish of the Supreme Executive that some mode may be Fallen upon for the State of Maryland to furnish so much flour beyond their own specific supplies to the continental Commissary, as the flour seized the property of this State amounts to.

# GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO GENERAL STEVENS

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

General Stevens.

Richmond August 4th 1780.

Sir,

Your several favors of July 16, 21 and 22, are now before us. our Smiths are engaged making 500 axes and some tomahawks for General Gates. about 100 of these will go by the waggons now taking in their loads. as these are for the army in general, no doubt you will participate of them. a chest of medicine was made up for you in Williamsburg, and by a strange kind of forgetfulness the vessel ordered to bring that, left it, and brought the rest of his shop. it is sent for again and I am not without hopes that it will be here in time to go by the present waggons. they will carry some ammunition & the axes and will make up their load with spirit. tents I fear cannot be got in this country. we have however sent out powers to all leading towns here to take it wherever it can be found. I write to General Gates to try whether the duck in north Carolina cannot be procured by the executive of that state on continental account: for surely the whole army as well our militia as the rest is continental. the arms you have to spare may be delivered to General Gates's order, taking and furnishing us with proper vouchers. we shall endeavour to send our draughts armed. I cannot conceive how the arms before sent could have got into so very bad order: they certainly went from hence in good condition. you wish to know how far the property

of this state in your hands is meant to be subject to the orders of the Commander in chief. arms and military stores we mean to be perfectly subject to him: the provisions going from this country will be for the whole army. if we can get any tents, they must be appropriated to our own troops. medicine, sick stores, spirits and such other things we expect shall be on the same footing as with the northern army. there you know each state furnishes its own troops with these articles and of course has an exclusive right to what is furnished. the money put into your hands was meant as a particular resource for any extra wants of our own troops: yet in case of great distress you would probably not see the others suffer without communicating part of it for their use. we debit Congress with this whole sum. there can be nothing but what is right in your paying major Mazaret's troops out of it. I wish the plan you have adopted for securing a return of the arms from the militia may answer. I apprehend any man who has a good gun on his shoulder, wou'd agree to keep it and have the worth of it deducted from his pay, more especially when the receipt of the pay is at some distance. what wou'd you think of notifying to them further that a proper certificate that they are discharged, and have returned their arms will be required before any pay is issued them? a roll kept and forwarded of those so discharged and delivering up their arms wou'd supply accidental losses of their certificates. we are endeavouring to get bayonet belts made. the state quarter master affirms the cartouch boxes sent from this place (959 in number) were all in good condition. I therefore suppose the 300 you received in such very bad order must have gone from the continental quarter master at Petersburg: or perhaps have been pillaged on the road of their flaps to mend shoes &c. I must still press the return of as many waggons as possible. all you will send shall be loaded with spirits, or something else for the army. by their next return we shall have a good deal of bacon collected. the inclosed is a copy of what was reported to me as heretofore sent by the waggons.

I am sir,  
Your very humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO GEN. HORATIO GATES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

General Gates.

Richmond August 4, 1780.

Sir,

Your several favours of July 19, 21, and 22 are now before me. I have enquired into the state of the cartouch boxes which were sent from our magazines: the Quarter master assures me they were in very good order. I must therefore conclude that the 300 complained of by General Stevens were some sent from Petersburg by the Continental quarter master or that they were pillaged of the leather on the way, to mend shoes &c. we had hopes of getting 2000 from the



Board of war, but we got only about 600 & they are said to be unfit for use. we are engaged in making bayonet belts, which shall be forwarded. but it is extremely difficult to procure leather. the consumption of beef by your army will I hope remove the want of this article another year. I have ordered the 500 axes you desired with some tomahawks to be made. they turn out about 20 a day. about 100 will go on by the waggons General Stevens sent us which are now loading at this place. these waggons will carry some ammunition & spirit. a vessel with about 3000 stand of arms coming down the bay for the use of your army was driven by privateers into Wicomico. we are endeavouring to get them forwarded either by land or water. the want of waggons will greatly retard them. what is to be done for tents I know not. I am assured that very little duck can be got in this country. whatever there is however will be produced under a commission gone out for that purpose. cannot the duck you speak of as being in North Carolina be purchased by that state on continental account for the use of the army? I communicated your orders to Colo Finnie and to Colo Buford, and have directed proper applications for the repairs of the bridges &c you mention. arms are ready for Buford's, Davis's and Gibson's men. Gibson's are clothed, and wait only to be paid which will be done in the course of a week. cloathing has been issued some time for the others which is making up under the superintendence of Colo Davies. they are utterly destitute of blankets, and I fear we shall be unable to get any. Brents infantry are but 30 and cannot be sent on without bringing on disagreeable disputes about rank between his officers and Gibson's. to silence these the march of his men has been countermanded. Colo Finnie informs me that major Lee's infantry has been sent back by special orders. we have ordered 243 horses to be purchased by Colo White and Washington. the orders to mr. Lewis to purchase beef in carolina were given by the continental commissary so long ago as last winter, when it was not foreseen there wou'd be such a call for it in that country. having no other means of conveying a Letter to him I take the liberty of putting one under cover to you with instructions to him to discontinue his purchases in North Carolina and to furnish you with as much of the beef he has as you may think necessary. it would be expedient for you to leave in his hands what ever quantity is not absolutely necessary for your army, as depending on that no other provision has been made for the post at Charlottesville: and you know our country so well as to foresee that a post at which 5000 rations a day are issued cannot be fed by the purchase of a day. we have reason to believe the French fleet arrived at Newport the 10th ultimo, but it is not certain. Admiral Graves with six sail of the line is certainly arrived at New York.

I am sir,  
Your very humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN DAY.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*Mr. Benjamin Day.<sup>109</sup>

Richmond August 4, 1780.

Sir,

Being daily called on for tobacco, as well to pay debts as to make purchases, one of Mr. Armistead's assistants is sent to receive from you whatever tobacco notes are in your hands of public property, and for a List of whatever tobacco we have where the notes are not in your possession. should the tobaccoes have been shipped or parted with in any instance and the notes retained, be so good as to send a memorandum of it. the bearers receipt at the foot of a list of the notes you shall deliver him will be a sufficient voucher for you on settlement of your accounts. Be so good as to inclose to me at the same time a List of what you deliver him.

I am sir,  
Your very humble ser<sup>t</sup>.  
TH: JEFFERSON.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. SAMUEL LEWIS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Colo Samuel Lewis.

Richmond August 4. 1780.

Sir,

The great demand which has arisen for Beef in the western parts of North Carolina for the army there, has rendered it proper to discontinue your purchases in that state: as also to supply General Gates's army with so much of what you have as he shall call for. I am in hopes he will not find the whole necessary as the post in Albemarle, depending on your supply is not otherwise provided for and it will take time to renew the purchases in another quarter. you will of course take proper receipts for all you deliver for either purpose, stating the weight precisely.

I am sir,  
Your very humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPT. JAMES MAXWELL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Captain James Maxwell.

Richmond August 5 1780.

Sir,

You will be pleased to advertise the Tartar for sale at some future day as you propose, as also the Safeguard galley. The Council agrees

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<sup>109</sup>Benjamin Day was assistant to the agent for carrying on the trade of the State, and resided at Alexandria.

to suspend the sale of the Lewis Galley till the Assembly shall declare their sense of the matter. we shall be very glad to purchase the ground you speak of above Hoods proper for making a wharf for public use, if the owner shall be willing to sell it for a reasonable price. you will be pleased to treat with him on that subject.

I am sir,  
Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR JOHN MAZARET.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Major Mazaret.

Richmond August 6th. 1780.

Sir,

I am sorry to hear that so many muskets have got injured in their transportation. they certainly went from hence in good order. as to the sending artificers from this place to repair them it is impracticable as we have them not to spare. those we have, are employed daily in repairing arms, preparing tools and necessaries for the southern army, so that were we to send them away, you wou'd lose the fountain from whence your supplies are to come. I make no doubt but General Gates will find it necessary to order the establishment of an armourers shop in North Carolina for the repair of the arms of his troops which must be daily getting out of repair. whether this shou'd be at Hillsborough or where else he is best judge. this is the only method which occurs to me of having those repaired which are now in your possession. if no prospect of this should arise you may return them to us by some of the empty waggons and we will have them repaired and sent back if we can get waggons. but the waste of waggonage in this mode is so evident at a time too when there are so many other articles to transport in that way, that I cannot but suppose it will be thought better to establish a continental shop on the spot, or some where else convenient to the army. I wish to be informed from the proper officer, whether any more musket cartridges will be wanting after the arrival of the present supplies, and how much more.

I am sir,  
Your very humble servant  
TH: JEFFERSON.

(*From the Letter Book of the War Commissioner.*)

Aug 7 1780

(name torn off)

Chesterfield C<sup>t</sup>. House

Governor Hamilton and Major Hay are ordered by the supreme Executive of this State to Chesterfield Courthouse: there to be closely confined till they are exchanged or till they consent to give their parole, on the terms proposed to them \* \* \*

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJ. JOSEPH HOLMES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*Mr. Jo: Holmes,<sup>110</sup> D. C. G. Prisoners at Winchester.

Richmond August 9th 1780.

Sir,

I laid before Council your Letter, desiring that barracks might be provided for the Continental prisoners in your charge. tho it seems highly necessary, and that they might probably be built of logs in the manner of those in Albemarle at no great expence, yet it is to Congress or to the Continental Board of war to whom y<sup>r</sup>. application must be made, and from whom the order must come. Perhaps if their suit against Hobday for his breach of contract, is likely soon to bring them in money to answer this expence, it might be an inducement to them to order barracks on the cheap plan proposed.

I am Sir,

Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

His Excellency General Washington.

Richmond August 9. 1780.

Sir,

Agreeable to the resolutions of Congress of January 13 1780, we have turn'd over to the Continental commissary of prisoners at Winchester, forty prisoners of war, a roll of whom I now take the liberty of inclosing to your Excellency.

I have the honor to be with all possible respect and esteem.

Your Excellency's

most obedient & mo hble serv<sup>t</sup>,

TH: JEFFERSON.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WM. FINNIE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*Colo: William Finnie.<sup>111</sup>

Richmond August 9th. 1780.

Sir,

Congress having taken upon themselves the expresses established by this State, from hence to the southern army, you will be pleased to undertake their superintendance. I suppose the expence is to be theirs from the 29th day of June when their vote was passed. if you

<sup>110</sup>Joseph Holmes was deputy commissary general of prisoners of war. He was one of the leading citizens of Winchester and had in 1779 been appointed one of four commissioners to settle disputed land claims in northwest Virginia counties.

<sup>111</sup>Colonel William Finnie was deputy quartermaster general of the Southern Department, serving in this capacity till the close of the war.



find the horses already employed necessary to be continued you will be pleased to receive them from our quarter master at the prices they cost him, and to settle with him also for any monies he may have disbursed for services done by those expresses since that date.

I am sir,  
Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO MR. WILLIAM ROSE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Mr. William Rose.<sup>112</sup>

Sir,

Richmond August 9. 1780.

Congress having taken upon themselves the expresses established by this State from hence to the southern army you will be pleased to turn them over to colo. Finnie. all expences incurred since the 29th day of June are to be continental. if colo. Finnie requires the same horses to be continued you will settle with him for them at the price they cost us. otherwise call them in. whatever the sum you debit, colo Finnie with, you will be pleased to take a proper voucher from him, and deliver it to the executive.

I am Sir,  
Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. CHARLES YATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, p. 25. 1780.*)

Mr. Charles Yates,<sup>113</sup> Fredericksburg.—

Sir,

Richmond August 9. 1780

We are much obliged by the attention you pay to the sale of public tobacco put into your hands. the sale was directed in order to raise a large sum of money for which Congress called on us, and which indeed ought to have been in Philadelphia some time ago. if you think the person offering to pay for the tobacco at the continental treasury in 35 days from the last tuesday will make his payment punctually in cash, and not by proposing discounts, we wou'd approve of the sale you mention. otherwise we wish you to sell in parcels or in any other way you think proper which may raise the money most expeditiously. no part of this money is to be paid to colo Finnie or major Foresythe unless Congress in any future order shou'd direct it explicitly, as they desired it for a very particular purpose.

I am sir  
Your mo obedient servant,  
T. JEFFERSON.

<sup>112</sup>William Rose was a Virginia deputy quartermaster. See "Calendar Virginia State Papers", I, 418, 419.

<sup>113</sup>Mr. Charles Yates was a merchant of Fredericksburg. He had been surety for John Atkinson, administrator of the estate of William Paul, the brother of John Paul Jones. See Quinn, S. J., "The History of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia," p. 237.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. RICHARD KENNY.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Mr. Richard Kenny, Fred:burg.

Sir,

Richmond August 9, 1780.

We approve of your selling the corn wherever you find it will be most to the public interest to do so, but it is necessary that the money arising from the sale, or so much at least as is not requisite for expences, be laid out again in corn at the post, to be delivered for the use of the continent, as Congress, Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington, and the act of Assembly all concur in this direction. the Commissioner of King and Queen as well as all the commissioners is to apply to the court of his county, who are authorized by law to make him such allowance for his trouble as they think reasonable. this precise mode is pointed out by the act of assembly.

I am sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO CLERK OF HENRICO COUNTY.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

The Clerk of Henrico County.—

Sir,

In Council August 9th 1780.

The Executive having thought it expedient to erect a magazine and Laboratory on certain Lands within your county of the property of Thomas Booth and Jn<sup>o</sup> Ballendine, lying near to the foundery, and having for that purpose had laid off and described by certain metes and bounds by the surveyor of the said county two acres and three quarters of the said lands of Thomas Booth, and three acres and one quarter of the said Lands of Jn<sup>o</sup> Ballendine, you are hereby required to issue a writ of *ad quod damnum* to be directed to the sheriff of the said county, commanding him to summon and empannell twelve able discreet freeholders of the vicinage, no ways concerned in interest in the said Lands nor related to the owners or proprietors thereof, to meet on the said Lands respectively on a certain day to be mentioned in the said writ, not under five, nor more than ten days from the date hereof, of which notice shall be given to the respective proprietors of the said Lands, if they be found within the county and if not, then to their respective agents if any there be, which freeholders are to value the said lands so laid off as directed by an act of the late session of assembly, intituled an act to enable the Governour to provide a laboratory and proper magazines for the reception of arms ammunition and other public stores. to prevent all mistakes be pleased to notify that the high sherif must attend in person as the execution of a writ of *ad quod damnum*, being of a judicial nature, cannot be done by a deputy.

I am sir,  
Your very humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR ROBERT FORSYTHE.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1780.)

mr. Robert Foresythe.<sup>114</sup>

Sir,

Richmond August 9th. 1780.

It being once settled that you are the person to receive the provisions from the commissioners of the provision law, I am perfectly satisfied on that head. I inclose you a list of the posts at which these provisions have been directed to be stored, and the counties which are at liberty to send to each post, as also twenty copies of orders on the several commissioners to make the delivery to you. I supposed one might be necessary to be kept at every post to be shewn to the commissioners or their agents who bring provisions. to have had the whole of these provisions brought to the few posts you mention would have been too great a burthen on the commissioners; who have, even under our arrangement, a sufficiency of the commissary's and quarter master's duties put on them. I think that two or three posts on each of the great navigable waters cannot be complain'd of. the provisions received on the southern road, leading from Petersburg to Carolina, are to be carried to the southern army. those at the barracks are for that post. those at Staunton the warm springs, and Botetourt courthouse are for state purposes, and all the rest are to be sent to the northern army, except that we shall take some little for our garrisons at Richmond, york, Hampton, and Portsmouth from the posts convenient to those garrisons and for vessels fitting out. we will furnish you with such moderate sums of money as may be necessary for coopers packers &c for these provisions. we have empowered the com<sup>rs</sup>. in the neighbourhood of the barracks to take live cattle for that post. colo Lewis's beaves are some of them come in, but we are apprehensive not many more will come from him as General Gates has authority to take what he thinks proper of them for the use of his army. I agree with you that a sufficient means of transportation would have kept that post from suffering and that the Qr. master is blameable for not having a sufficiency: but I think also that if you had communicated a just share of the monies you have received to your deputy there much provisions might have been purchased in that part of the country and great transportation been thereby saved and that in this way also the post might have been kept from sufferance.

I am sir,

Your very humble servant

TH: JEFFERSON.

In council august 9. 1780. since the directions to the commissioners of the provision law for delivering the provisions they should

<sup>114</sup>Major Robert Forsythe was Continental purchasing commissary in Virginia.

The hustings court of Fredericksburg ordered on January 12, 1832, that the following certificate be entered on its records: "The court orders it to be certified that it was proved to their satisfaction by the evidence of Francis S. Scott, a witness sworn in court, that Major Robert Forsythe, of the Revolutionary army, had two children, one of whom, Robert, died under age and unmarried, and the other son, John, is now alive, being the Senator in Congress from Georgia."—See Quinn, "History of Fredericksburg, Va.," p.134.

obtain to the continental q<sup>r</sup>. master or order, it having been made the duty of the Continental purchasing commissary to receive the same, the commissioners for the several counties are hereby authorized and desir'd to deliver their several articles of provision to the continental commissary of purchases or order, excepting always the commissioners of those counties who were to store their provisions at the Barracks in Albemarle, or who were directed to deliver them to the state commissary or quarter master.

(20 copies delivrd.)

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL ARTHUR CAMPBELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Colo Arthur Campbell.<sup>115</sup>

Sir,

Richmond August 9. 1780.

Your Letter of July the 13th came to hand two days ago; we are well pleased with the spirited manner in which the insurrection of the tories has been suppressed. as to the appropriation of the plunder of the insurgents among the militia, who were engaged in the expedition, you are too well acquainted with our government not to know that no power of doing that is lodged with the executive. you can also judge whether if the appropriation is made by the people themselves and nothing said about it, there will be any danger of the former proprietors troubling them with actions. it would seem probable they will hardly ever hazard their lives by stirring such a question, unless they were really innocent, in which case it ought to be restored to them. this is all I think myself at liberty to say on this question.

I am sir,

Your most obedient serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO DR. GILMOUR.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Dr. Gilmour.<sup>116</sup>

Sir,

Richmond august 9th 1780.

I have spoken to Dr. Rickman on the subject of your Letter. he said his medicines are just come to Petersburg and that as soon as they are opened, he will send a proper supply for you to this place, from whence it shall be forwarded by the first waggons from your post. money he cannot furnish you because he has it not. I therefore send £2000 to the commissary to procure for the use of the hospital such meats, &c as you shall direct out of the ordinary course of purchases. I also send you a tierce of rice for the use of the hospital.

I am sir,

Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO: JEFFERSON.

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<sup>115</sup>Colonel Arthur Campbell was county-lieutenant of Washington County.

<sup>116</sup>A Dr. George Gilmour was a Virginia surgeon in the Revolutionary War. Dr. William Rickman was director of a Continental hospital in Virginia.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Colo William Davies.<sup>117</sup>

In Council August 9. 1780.

Sir,

Mr. Robertson receives a warrant for £2500, and an order for a tierce of rice from our stock. we have none of the other articles desired, but am in hopes he may be able to purchase them. as to the soap from the Barracks I imagine the requisition to the commissary general of issues would go more properly from yourself, as it is continental property. shou'd any difficulty occur in this, Genl. Muhlenburg will be here in a day or two, to make this his head quarters, and will be able to remove the difficulty. Stuff for knapsacks shall be delivered you on demand. if there be as many blankets to be had in the state, they shall be got. we have taken measures to get them in most of the principal towns. For waggons you will of course make your requisitions to Colo Finnie.

I am sir, with great respect,  
Your most obedient servant,  
THO: JEFFERSON.

P. S. I have also given mr Robertson an order for a barrel of molasses, if there be any in the country store.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO OFFICERS OF COLONEL CROCKETT'S  
COMMAND.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

The Officers of COLO Crockets Battalion.<sup>118</sup>

Richmond August 9th. 1780.

Sir

At the time the legislature past the act for raising four battalions for the defence of this commonwealth, and giving to the executive a power of appointing officers it was foreseen that nothing like that number wou'd be raised. the executive had also seen the state by a hasty appointment of officers before their men were actually raised, run to the expence of paying regiments of officers which had no men. they have therefore on all late occasions, thought it their duty to avoid commissioning officers, till they shou'd have actual commands in being. had they not pursued this plan in the instance now under consideration the state wou'd have had the officers of four regiments on pay, when there have never been men enough for half a regiment

<sup>117</sup>At this time Davies was colonel of the 10th Virginia Continental Regiment (formerly the 5th Virginia). In March 1781 he succeeded Col. George Muter as Virginia Commissioner of war.

<sup>118</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Crockett was to take command of this battalion, which was being raised to assist George Rogers Clark in his contemplated expedition against Detroit. The force reached Clark at Pittsburg in the summer of 1781, but the expedition had to be given up.

raised; the nomination of officers by the gentlemen, who were desired to nominate, was merely recommendatory and subject to be approved or rejected by the executive, and expressly said to be so in the letter to the county Lieutenant to preclude every claim of pay & other emoluments, which a final appointment might have given rise to. where half the quota of men was never raised at all, the recommendation became a mere nullity and as if it had been never made; where the half quota was raised, that recommendation was brought into effect on the day the half quota was compleated, according to precise stipulation in the Letter. the executive used every precaution they cou'd to guard ag<sup>t</sup> what they thought would be improper, that is, the paying officers before they had men. their Letter, under which the officers were recommended, was explicit in this point, and the gentlemen accepted of their appointments under this Letter. it is believed therefore, they cannot now think it a hardship not to receive that which it had always been declared was not to be received. these are the reasons which induced the council originally to determine against pay or other emoluments accruing before the half quota raised, and which still induce them to think the claim not founded in right. I cannot but flatter myself it will appear so to the gentlemen themselves, taking a view of the subject on a large scale and forming a general rule to be applied to all cases equally.

I am, with great respect, Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO CHARLES YATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

mr Charles Yates.

*Sir*

Richmond August 10th 1780.

Since writing the within, I receive information that Congress think to order the money which our tobacco is selling to raise, to be sent on southwardly. it becomes therefore necessary that the payment offered for the tobacco in your hands should not be made in Philadelphia, but in fredericksburg, or at our own treasury.

I am sir,  
Your mo obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GREEN MUNFORD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

colo Green Munford.<sup>119</sup>

*Sir,*

In Council august 10th 1780.

I received your Letter, inclosing a state of the issues. as soon as you send the residue I will have it settled. since my writing to you

<sup>119</sup>William Green Munford, colonel, deputy commissary-general of issues.

to receive the provisions collecting under the provision law, when I think I mentioned to you that I directed my Letter to you because colo Finnie and major Foresyth told me the duty was within y<sup>r</sup>. line, it has been settled by proper authority to be major Foresyth's duty, who accordingly writes me he shall be ready to receive the provisions. I have sent him proper orders for this purpose which relieves you from the burthens.

I am sir,

Your very humble servant,  
THO: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CHARLES ALEXANDER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Mr Charles Alexander.<sup>120</sup>

Richmond august 11. 1780.

Sir,

I inclose you the attorney general's opinion on the subject of importations from Maryland. we have lately appointed a commercial agent within whose particular line of duty it will be to provide spirit for the army. to him we shall refer the proposition of General Roberdeau,<sup>121</sup> to furnish whiskey. since our Letter directing the delivery of your provisions to the continental quarter master, it has been made the duty of the purchasing commissary, to receive them on behalf of the Continent. we have accordingly furnished him with orders to receive. I am obliged to you for the information as to the flour in Loudon. the country below the blue ridge was divided into four districts and an agent appointed to each to bring the grain to a particular post in it, or to make sale of it & buy more convenient. the grain of Loudon was to be brought to Alexandria, where such an agent was appointed. I hope he has notice of the situation of the flour in Loudon, and is taking proper measures to save it.

I am Sir,

Your very humble servant,—  
TH JEFFERSON.

P. S. the necessaity of taking the attorney General's opinion, put it out of my power to send this by the return of post.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. NASH, OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(*From State Records of North Carolina, XV, 47.*)

Richmond August 12, 1780.

Sir:

Frequent murders having been committed by the Cherokee Indians of the Chickamogga towns, and some others who have associated with

<sup>120</sup> <sup>121</sup> Charles Alexander was a merchant of Alexandria, Va.

Daniel Roberdeau, brigadier-general of Pennsylvania militia. He was a leading merchant of Philadelphia and had been a member of the Continental Congress. After the war he lived for a time at Alexandria, Va., and then removed to Winchester, Va., where he died.

them & seceded from the main body of the nation, we directed Col. Campbell in the month of June to raise 500 men from our Counties of Washington and Montgomery in order to destroy those towns. He was instructed to use the utmost attention in distinguishing the friendly from the hostile part of the nation, and while he should chastise the latter, to spare no assurance and protection to the former. being informed at the same time that a similar expedition was meditated from your frontiers, under your authority, or by the inhabitants themselves, we instructed Col. Campbell to open a proper correspondence for the purpose of producing a co-operation against the common Enemy. The inclosed is an extract of a Letter I received from him lately, which I take the liberty of transmitting to your Excellency, because if Col. Campbell's information has been true, it discovers a disposition in the inhabitants of Washington County of your state to bring on a war with the friendly Cherokees. without animadverting on the injustice of such a measure, it would so much increase the difficulties with which our two States have at present to contend that I thought it my duty to communicate this to your Excellency, as, should it wear any appearance of probability with you, it might suggest measures for further enquiry, and for preventing an aggression, if one should have been meditated. our frontier counties being jointly and intimately interested in the transactions with the Cherokees— I hope I shall meet your Excellency's pardon for imparting to you any intelligence coming to my ear, which may appear to threaten their peace, and I do it the more freely, as I should myself most thankfully receive similar communication from you of anything on our side the line, which might require the vigilance of our Government.

I have the honour to be,

With every sentiment of esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient

And most humble Servt.,

THOS. JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPT. JAMES MAXWELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Captain James Maxwell.

Richmond August 12th. 1780.—

Sir,

the inclosed letter, giving a very unfavorable account of the situation of the Diligence and Accomack gallies, and pointing out the immediate necessity of interposition, I take the liberty of transmitting to you. if it shall be found that both gallies are deserted by the men, it may be worthy consideration whether it would not be better to bring both to the western shore.

I am sir,

your very humble servant

TH: JEFFERSON.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO WILLIAM FINNIE.

(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)

Colo. William Finnie.

Sir, Richmond august 12th 1780.—

The inclosed extract of a Letter from Colo. Corbin of the eastern shore, will inform you of the danger, in which the corn there lies for which you had an order. the presumption that you would immediately remove it on receiving the order prevented us from taking measures for that purpose. this gives me occasion to observe to you that in all such cases we consider the grain as lying at your risk.

I am sir,

Your very humble servant

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR HENRY LEE.

(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)

Major Henry Lee.<sup>122</sup>

Sir, Richmond August 14th, 1780.

I this day received your favor of the 20th ult. it wou'd give us great pleasure to concur in any measure for consolidating into bodies the several fractions of corps which we have in continental service, and we shou'd be particularly pleased to have your corps made of our line if it cou'd be done either by a transfer of individuals from other corps to that or by any other operation. the new Levies of which you desire that 30 may be allotted to you, are by the act of Assembly to be organised by General Washington. if you will be pleased to apply to him any appropriation of that kind, which he shall direct, shall be made as convenient to you as possible.

I am with great respect, sir, your most obedient,  
and most humble servant,—

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. BENJAMIN TEMPLE.

(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)

Colo: Benjamin Temple.<sup>123</sup>

Sir, Richmond August 14th 1780.—

I this day received from Mr. Walker<sup>124</sup> of Congress your Letter on the subject of rum & other refreshments for our officers in the nor-

<sup>122</sup>“Light Horse” Harry Lee, soon to be sent with his legion to the South to assist General Greene. His highest rank during the war was that of lieutenant colonel, but few officers of the Revolution, even those of the rank of general, gained greater distinction in the war. Like his son, Robert E. Lee, he was a born soldier.

<sup>123</sup>Captain of Virginia Dragoons, 15th June, 1776; lieutenant colonel 1st Continental Dragoons, 31st March, 1777; transferred, Dec. 10, 1779, to the 4th Continental Dragoons, becoming colonel in 1783.

<sup>124</sup>John Walker (1744-1809). Settled, after graduation at William and Mary, at “Belvoir”, Albemarle County. In 1777 he was commissioned, with his father, Dr. Thos. Walker, the explorer, to make special terms with the Indians at Fort Pitt. He had served as an extra aide on staff of Gen. Washington. After the war he filled the vacancy in the U. S. Senate occasioned by the death of Wm. Grayson.

thern service. As we cou'd not justify the expence of employing an agent to the northward to furnish those articles to the few officers of ours remaining there we have come to the resolution of which I inclose you a copy. it becomes necessary that we be furnished with a return of those who will be entituled to these articles, as we are altogether uninformed of them. I must ask the favor of you to make me this return. It will also be necessary that some one shou'd undertake to draw for and pay the refreshment money to the whole; it will be very agreeable if you will undertake this office and your Bills shall be duly honored. Thro' the same channel I have also received a letter from a mr. Overton with a state of deficiencies of cloathing founded on our act of assembly. No founds [sic] that have ever yet been provided by the assembly have enabled us to comply with that act. all that these put it in our power to do, is to furnish a moderate supply of cloathing to the officers. this was done generally to all those to the northward in the course of the last winter, and it will not be in our power to furnish another supply till the next winter.

I am sir,

Your most obedient servant,

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO DR. WM. RICKMAN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Dr. Wm. Rickman Director General of the Cont<sup>l</sup>. shop.

Sir,

Richmond august 14. 1780.

If you will be pleased to transmit me an account of the medicines furnished from the stores under your direction to the Tendant, whle at york, with an acknowledgement thereon of satisfaction received from this state, I will see that you have credit for the same in your account with us. we wish this to be done, in order to put it in our power by paying off this account to indemnify them for an improper article of debit, which having been entered and paid before it came to our notice, we have no other means left of correcting. I am sir, with great esteem,

Your most obedient serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. MUHLENBURG.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

General Muhlenburg.

Sir

In Council August 14th 1780.

Colo Gibsons <sup>125</sup> regiment being now equipped for service, I take the liberty of putting them under your orders. I understand many

<sup>125</sup>There were two Colonel Gibsons commanding Virginia regiments in the Revolutionary War—Colonel George Gibson and Colonel John Gibson. The one referred to above was Col. George Gibson, who started his Revolutionary services as captain of "Gibson's Lambs" (see "Official Letters of the Governors

of them are sick. you will be pleased to judge whether it will be better to bring them to the hospital in Chesterfield or not I am sir,

Your most obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GIBSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Colo Gibson.

Sir

In Council August 14th 1780.

Your regiment having now received their pay and equipments for marching are put under General Muhlenburg's direction by an order of this day so that they will be considered as in continental service from this time: from him therefore you will be pleased to receive your future orders.

I am Sir,  
Your most obedient serv<sup>t</sup>.  
THO: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. LEE., OF MARYLAND.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

His Excellency Governour Lee.

Sir,

Richmond August 15. 1780.

On receipt of your Letter yesterday on the subject of Stephen Mister, I enquired of the Jailer and had from him information that such a person was sent here from Accomack in June last, charged with high treason: that the Judges at the last court admitted him to bail, (the testimony probably appearing slight) binding him in a penalty of £100,000 himself and two sureties in £50,000 each for his appearance at the court in october next. Shou'd he be cleared on trial I will see that due attention be paid to your Letter. in the meantime it will perhaps be best to say nothing as it might prevent his coming in.

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of esteem and respect,  
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,  
THO: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GATES.

(*From Bergh's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," IV, 96.*)

Richmond, August 15, 1780.

Sir,—Your favor of August the 3d, is just now put into my hand. Those formerly received have been duly answered, and my replies

of the State of Virginia", I, 77). He was now colonel of the 1st Virginia State Regiment. Colonel John Gibson was at this time in command of the 9th Va. Regiment, but was in February, 1781, transferred to the 7th Virginia, then at Pittsburg, because of his ability in frontier fighting.

will, no doubt, have reached you before this date. My last letter to you was by Colonel Drayton.<sup>126</sup>

I spoke fully with you on the difficulty of procuring wagons here, when I had the pleasure of seeing you, and for that reason pressed the sending back as many as possible. One brigade of twelve has since returned, and is again on its way with medicine, military stores, and spirit. Any others which come, and as fast as they come, shall be returned to you with spirit and bacon. I have ever been informed that the very plentiful harvests of North Carolina, would render the transportation of flour from this State as unnecessary as it would be tedious, and that, in this point of view, the wagons should carry hence only the articles before mentioned, which are equally wanting with you. Finding that no great number of wagons are likely to return to us, we will immediately order as many more to be bought and sent on, as we possibly can. But, to prevent too great expectations, I must again repeat, that I fear no great number can be got. I do assure you, however, that neither attention nor expense shall be spared, to forward to you every support for which we can obtain means of transportation. You have, probably, received our order on Colonel Lewis, to deliver you any of the beeves he may have purchased.

Tents, I fear, it is in vain to expect, because there is not in this country stuff to make them. We have agents and commissioners in constant pursuit of stuff, but hitherto researches have been fruitless. Your order to Colonel Carrington shall be immediately communicated. A hundred copies of the proclamation shall also be immediately printed and forwarded to you. General Muhlenburg is come to this place, which he will now make his headquarters. I think he will be able to set into motion, within a very few day, five hundred regulars, who are now equipped for their march, except some blankets still wanting, but I hope nearly procured and ready to be delivered.

I sincerely congratulate you on your successful advances on the enemy, and wish to do everything to second your enterprises, which the situation of this country, and the means and powers put into my hands, enable me to do.

I am, Sir, with sincere respect and esteem,

Your most obedient and most humble servant.

LIEUT.-GOV. DUDLEY DIGGES TO  
MAJ. CHARLES MAGILL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Major Charles Magill.<sup>127</sup>

Sir,

In Council August 16th. 1780.

The Governour being at this time absent<sup>128</sup>, it has become necessary for me to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 8th

<sup>126</sup>Stephen Drayton, of South Carolina, colonel, deputy quartermaster-general of the Southern Department from November 12th, 1778.

<sup>127</sup>Charles Magill, 2d lieutenant, 11th Virginia, January, 1777; resigned office of regimental adjutant in 1778, and served subsequently as major and colonel of a Virginia State regiment.

<sup>128</sup>Gov. Jefferson was away until August 28.



instant, and to thank you for the intelligence thereby communicated to the executive. It is the wish of this board sir, that you will be pleased to continue the correspondence, which you have begun since it is as necessary as it will be satisfactory to be informed of every material circumstance which may happen in the southern department. The satisfaction which we feel at finding that our troops have made some successful advances on the enemy will make us the more anxious to receive a further account of their progress and manœuvres.

I am sir,

Your most obedient servant,

DUDLEY DIGGES L. G.

LT. GOV. DUDLEY DIGGES TO GENERAL STEVENS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Brig. General Stevens.

In Council August 16th, 1780.

Sir,

His Excellency the Governour was just setting out yesterday to take a little recess from public Business for about ten days, when the express arrived with dispatches from General Gates and yourself. He had time only to write to the General & therefore it has become necessary for me to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter: but chiefly to refer you to the Governours Lre to General Gates for particulars. the brigade of waggons which returned to you sometime since, carried on medicine, military stores and spirits. any others also which may return from you will be redispached with supplies of spirit and of Bacon for it is hoped that the very plentiful harvest of north Carolina, which have been spoken off will render the transportation of flour from this unnecessary as it wou'd be tedious if not impracticable, and therefore it is thought that waggons should carry hence only the articles above mentioned, which are equally wanting with you. Besides expecting return waggons from you to carry on the articles above alluded to, as many more will be brought and sent on as can be procured. to prevent two great expectations: it is necessary to observe that we have reason to fear no great number can be got: though neither attention nor expence will be spared to forward to you every support, for which the executive can find means of transportation. It affords much satisfaction to us that amidst the many difficulties which have attended the march of your troops, you have nevertheless been able to make successful advances on the enemy, and we trust that we by the exertions of N<sup>o</sup>. carolina and this state to furnish the army with proper supplies: that your enterprizes will be finally crowned with success. the Letters enclosed with your dispatches have been delivered into the hands of persons who will convey them as directed as soon as possible.

I am very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

DUDLEY DIGGES L G

## LT. GOV. DUDLEY DIGGES TO WILLIAM PRESTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Colo. Preston.

In Council August 17th 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the eighth instant came to the Governour just before he set out on a Journey home, to take some little recess from Business after a very long and laborious confinement. It hath heretofore become necessary for me to acknowledge the receipt of it and to acquaint you, that the executive do very much approve of your conduct respecting the unhappy and deluded people, who have made spirited and rigorous measures absolutely necessary for the security and defence of the Citizens of this State in your quarter. we have no particular advice or directions to give you upon this alarming occasion, but very earnestly recommend it to you to act upon all occasions agreeably to the Laws of the country and to persevere in your utmost exertions and endeavours to suppress the horrid conspiracy which has been clearly meditated by a number of persons. The Law passed the last Assembly to which you allude is herein enclosed and that together with the other Laws in force, we trust will prove a sufficient guide to you in all circumstances. With regard to punder &c. it is a point upon which it behoves us to be perfectly silent, since it is and must remain altogether a judicial matter. It seems to us that you have adopted the only method respecting the prisoners that prudence cou'd suggest.

I am sir,

Your most obedient servant,

DUD: DIGGES L. G.

## LT. GOV. DUDLEY DIGGES TO ROBERT FORSYTHE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Mr. Robert Foresythe.

In Council Richmond august 17. 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter from fredericksburg of the ninth instant, was this day (the Governour being absent) put into my hands by Mr. Tate. I did immediately lay the same before the Council, who after mature deliberation, have determined,—that a warrant that<sup>129</sup> shou'd issue upon your account to mr. Tate for the sum of 50,000£ to enable him for the present, to confirm his contracts for meal for the convention troops. I am directed at the same time to inform you, that this is the last and only sum that can or will be advanced, on account of the exhausted state of the treasury for the use of the convention troops, a circumstance this, which it was thought the more necessary to inform you of, as we are told by mr. Tate the bearer of y<sup>r</sup> Letter that

<sup>129</sup>So in the original. The insertion of the word "that" is evidently, however, a copyist's error.

you very soon intend going to Phila: and may therefore have an opportunity of representing to the Congress or to the Commissary General of provisions, how impracticable it will be for this state to engage to make further advances in your department, whilst the demands for the southern troops occur so frequently as totally to exhaust our treasury and with it our abilities to comply with any future requisitions, at least until the next meeting of the general Assembly. With regard to what you mention of the beef-cattle, which you are required to send on to the northern army, I am directed by the Council to inform you, that none can be taken by commissioners under the late act of Assembly, but for the express purpose of supplying the convention troops, or troops ordered into actual service from this commonwealth, as you will perceive from an extract of the act, which is now enclosed.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

DUDLEY DIGGES L. G.

LT. GOV. DUDLEY DIGGES TO GEN. MUHLENBURG.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

General Muhlenburg.

In Council Richmond August 18. 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of this day's date, hath been laid before the Council and I am empowered by them to return you an answer to it: a warrant hath been issued to the commissary of stores to enable him to procure the whole number of Blankets said to have been engaged at Petersburg, amounting to two hundred and twenty five, which from the personal information you were pleased to give to the board, it is hoped will prove sufficient for the troops at Chesterfield courthouse. With respect to Colo Gibson's corps, we are sorry to inform you that we do not, at present know of any blankets, which can be procured at any price, but that every enquiry possible will be made that can lead to the obtaining of a sufficient number, for those eighty men, which by Colo Gibson's return, are said to be in a condition to march to the southward. With regard to deserters the Council are of opinion that it is improper for them to give any advice concerning them, but suppose generally, that the true sense and spirit of the law respecting them, ought to be observed by the Officers appointed to receive such deserters. The Places of rendezvous having been heretofore notified by expresses to the various county Lieutenants, it is thought improper at present to counteract, or alter them. With respect to what necessaries can be furnished generally to the troops under your direction you shall receive a particular account, so soon as proper information can be procured from our commissary of stores.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

DUDLEY DIGGES L. G.

## LT. GOV. DIGGES TO GENERAL MUHLENBURG.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

General Muhlenburg.

Sir,

In Council August 19th 1780.

I am to inform you that your Letter received yesterday wherein you desired to have the place of rendezvous for the new Levies changed from Halifax to Chesterfield courthouse, was misunderstood. I must therefore by the direction of the Council acquaint you that in their opinion the place of rendezvous had better remain undetermined untill the governour shall return, being satisfied that when that shall happen, which we suppose will be in 8 or 10 days, the matter will be accomodated to your sentiments and opinion. the commissary of stores has attended the Board this morning and informs that, he is not at present prepared to furnish any tents, blankets, or any cloathing for the new Levies, and whether he will be better enabled in time to come, depends entirely upon some lucky arrivals: a circumstance too precarious to reckon upon. this matter is mentioned to you sir, that you may lose no time in making the application to the board of war at Phila. as was intimated to [in] your letter.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient

DUDLEY DIGGES L. G.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Dudley Digges, Joseph Prentis and Merriweather Smith, esquires.

Gentlemen,

In Council August 28. 1780.

The disaster which has lately befallen our Army under the command of major General Gates calls on me for an immediate and great exertion to stop the progress of the enemy, if nothing can be done. The measures most likely to effect this are difficult both in choice and execution. I wish therefore to have the advice of as a full a board as can be collected before anything is finally determined; and for this purpose must beg the favor of your attendance at the board on friday next, when I propose to take the advice of Council on this subject.

I am Gent.

Your most obedient servant.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
PROVISION LAW OF BEDFORD, CUMBERLAND,  
GOOCHLAND, SHENANDOAH, ROCKINGHAM,  
AND AUGUSTA.*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Gentlemen,

In Council August 29. 1780.—

As we have received information that the post at the barracks in Albemarle is greatly distressed for provisions we hereby extend your



powers as Comm<sup>rs</sup>. of the provision law to live cattle and wheat or flour of the present crop, and desire that you will by virtue of your Commission furnish as speedily as possible such numbers of beeves & quantities of wheat or flour of the present year as Col<sup>o</sup>. Wood shall apply to you for. I inclose you for information as to the manner in which you are to proceed with respect to the beeves an extract from the Act of Assembly passed for that purpose. I repeat my entreaties that you be very exact in taking vouchers.

I have the honor to be with great respect Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient Servant  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WOOD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Colo James Wood.

Richmond August 29. 1780.

Sir,

I inclose you a duplicate of a Letter to Evan Baker to furnish supplies to your post, which perhaps you have an opportunity of forwarding, also Letters extending the powers of the commissioners of the provisions law for the counties of Albemarle, Orange, Culpepper, Louisa, Fluvanna, Buckingham, and Amherst to wheat and flour of the present crop, and of those for the counties of Bedford, Cumberland, Goochland, Shenandoah, Rockingham, and Augusta, to wheat and flour of the present crop and to live cattle. you will see by them that it is left to yourself what use to make of them. these are the only measures, which occur to us as within our power to adopt for the relief of your post. The [y] consent if Cornet Brent should find it necessary to his private affairs to resign his commission that you should receive it, giving immediate notice that his place may be supplied.—

I am sir, with great respect,  
Your m<sup>o</sup> obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO EVAN BAKER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Mr. Evan Baker.

Richmond August 29. 1780.

Sir,

The distress of the post at the Barracks in Albemarle, for want of animal-food, being very great, you are desired after reserving 200 of the beeves you have purchased to go with Colo Crocket, and 600 others to be sent when he shall furnish you with a proper excort, to send all the rest to the barracks in Albemarle. The two hundred it is supposed must be of the first you purchase; but that the 600 need only be ready when called for by Colo Crocket, so that in the meantime

it is hoped you may throw in a considerable number to the barracks. the necessities of that post require all the expedition you possibly can use. you are desired also to give notice to the commissary there from time to time of the supplies which he may expect from you and when they will be delivered.

I am Sir,

Your most ob<sup>t</sup>. servant,

TH: JEFFERSON.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO CHARLES YATES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Mr Charles Yates.

Richmond August 29. 1780.

Sir,

I received yesterday your favor of the 23rd instant your several proceedings therein mentioned are such as meet our approbation, and we will ask the favor of you, when you have received the money to avail yourself of any safe opportunity, which may occur of transmitting it here. the Council think the offer made by mr. Maury not an equal one, and have therefore declined it, hoping you will be able to do better with the tobacco remaining.—I am sir, with great respect, your most ob<sup>t</sup>. servant,

TH: JEFFERSON.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO JAMES ADAM.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Mr. James Adam agent of the grain tax Alexandria.—

Richmond. August 29. 1780.

Sir,

Your letter of the 18th instant came to hand yesterday, you seem in that to decline meddling with the grain in the counties of Westmoreland, Northumberland because the quantity is small and the commissions too trifling to be worth your attention; while you undertake the care of the grain in those counties, where the quantity is considerable. you will please to recollect that the charge we offered you, was an entire charge, and it was no part of our proposition that you should accept such parts of it as were beneficial and decline what was not so. you were to undertake or reject the whole. your having begun the exercise of your office in a part, is therefore deemed as undertaking the whole: and we shall expect from you an account of the specific articles in all the counties put under your care. at the same time it is perfectly consistant with your instructions to transact any part of the business, whether distant or near by any other person whom you may think proper to employ at your own charge or without charge. any grain which shall have been delivered to any continental quarter master or commissary will be considered as properly disposed off. the nett proceeds of your corn are to be

invested in the same article at your post and delivered as mentioned in your instructions. if you will recur to the advice of council of May 29th. you will find that all the enumerated articles except tobacco are to be collected at your post and there delivered to a continental q<sup>r</sup>. master or commissary; and as the wheat of which the flour is made is an enumerated article it is of course comprehended in the general order.

I am Sir,  
Your m<sup>o</sup> obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PROVISION LAW OF HANOVER AND OTHER COUNTIES.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1780.)

The Commissioners of the Provision Law, of  
Hanover, York, Eliza City, Norfolk, Pr.  
[Princess] Anne, Chesterfield and James  
City.<sup>130</sup>

Gentlemen, In Council august 29. 1780.

The garrison at being likely to want provisions, we hereby extend your powers as commissioners of the provision Law to live Cattle, and desire that you will by virtue of your commission furnish such number of beeves as the state commissary shall apply to you for, taking proper vouchers for their delivery and transmitting them to me. I enclose you for information as to the manner in which you are to proceed, an extract from the act of assembly passed for that purpose.

I have the honor to be with great respect.  
Your most obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

In the Lre to James City. insert "artificers and labourers at the shipyard" instead of the word garrison.<sup>131</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PROVISION LAW OF ALBEMARLE AND OTHER COUNTIES.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1780.)

The Commissioners of the provision Law for  
Albemarle, Orange, Culpeper, Louisa, Fluvanna, Rockingham and Amherst.

Gentlemen, In Council august 29. 1780.

As we understand that the post at the barracks in Albemarle is distressed for meat,<sup>132</sup> we hereby extend your powers as commis-

<sup>130</sup>This note is written in the margin:

"Similar Lres written 26 octo 80 to the comrs of Caroline, N. Kent, C City."

<sup>131</sup>This shipyard was on the Chickahominy River twelve miles above its mouth.

<sup>132</sup>The word "meat" here is evidently a mistake of the clerk for "wheat".

sioners of the provision Law to wheat of the present crop, and desire that you will by virtue of your commission endeavour to furnish as speedily as possible such quantities of wheat or flour of the present crop as colo Wood shall apply to you for. we repeat our entreaties that you be very exact in taking vouchers. I have the honour to be with great respect Gentlemen

Your most obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. MUHLENBURG.  
(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

To such Persons as General Muhlenburg shall appoint  
to act as Commissioners to supply the „—,,  
—,,—,, New Corps.—

Virginia, in Council august 29. 1780.

Sir,

You are hereby appointed a Commissioner under the act for procuring a supply of provisions and other necessities for the use of the army, but restrained specially to the procuring the articles enumerated in the said act, and live cattle, horses, waggons, and their gear, for their subsistence and transporting the baggage of the recruits raised under an act of the last session of Assembly. You are in the first instance if it can be done with any convenience to call on the continental commissaries or on the commissioners of the same provision law appointed in each county in which you may be with the said recruits, to furnish provisions for their subsistence during their stay at any place within this state, or their march through the same. your receipt to such commissioners shall be to them a good voucher for the delivery of any articles you shall call on them for, notwithstanding any former orders we may have given, to deliver them otherwise. if neither the said commissioners, nor commissaries can furnish you with subsistence you are in that case, and in that case only to exercise the powers hereby given you within the counties before described. When you shall have passed with the recruits out of the limits of this state, or your attendance on them for the purposes of this commission, shall be dispensed with by any continental officer having authority so to do, this commission is to determine, and you are to transmit to me by safe conveyances duplicate Lists of all the Certificates or receipts you shall have given for articles hereby submitted to your seizure, specifying the name of the owner, the article seized, the price to be paid and time of seizure. That you may be informed of the manner in which you are to proceed in the execution of this commission you will receive herewith a copy of the provision Law, and an extract from another act relative to the particular articles of live stock, horses, waggons, and their gear, this last being the only article to which under the term 'necessaries' used in the act, we mean that your power should extend.

I am Sir,  
Your very humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO WILLIAM GRAYSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

The Honourable William Grayson,<sup>133</sup> Board of War.

Richmond August 30th, 1780.

Sir,

I happened to be absent from this place when captain Joy<sup>134</sup> brought your Letter of July 28. he saw some of the articles of military stores which we have and others he did not see, but what he concluded to take or how to convey them I cannot find by any enquiry I have been able to make. I therefore take the liberty of inclosing you as good a state as I can at this time get of what we are able to furnish you with of the articles enumerated in your Letter, which if you chuse them shall be delivered to your order. I also take the liberty of offering you some military stores landed for us at Boston last summer of which an invoice is inclosed. we should expect to be allowed for them their cost in France (which is stated in the invoice) common freight and a reasonable insurance and that a credit to the amount should be allowed to your Agent m<sup>r</sup>. Lee<sup>135</sup> in the settlement of his acct. with you, who in order to furnish some stores on our application ventured to advance some continental monies in his hands which no endeavours of ours have yet enabled us to replace in france. we have reason to believe the articles were well bought as we sent a special agent for the purpose and have found as to such articles as were brought here that his commission was faithfully executed.

I have the Honour to be Sir,

Your most obedient,

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

The Chevalier de la Luserne.<sup>136</sup>

Richmond August 31. 1780—

Sir,

Your Excellency's Letter of the 27th of July should not have been so long unanswered, but that I have been for some time past absent in the country. The generous aid from your Sovereign, the arrival of which is announced in your Letter, must have filled up the measure of gratitude felt by every American if there was room still left for an increase of grateful sentiment. With me there was

<sup>133</sup>Col. William Grayson had acted as aide-de-camp to Washington, and had commanded a Virginia regiment. At this time he was a member of the Continental Board of War. At the time of his death, in 1790, he was senator from Virginia in the first Congress.

<sup>134</sup>Captain Daniel Joy, who came to Virginia to engage for the manufacture of ordnance ammunition for the Continental army. See "Calender of Virginia State Papers", I, 370.

<sup>135</sup>Mr. Arthur Lee.

<sup>136</sup>French envoy to the United States.

none. I think these essential succours must impress the minds of all our people to the latest time, & that which affects the minds of all, must for ever influence the public councils and conduct, notwithstanding the too general prevalence of the interest of the day on the measures of nations. The interest of this State is intimately blended, so perfectly the same with that of the others of the confederacy that the most effectual aid it can at any time receive, is where the general cause most needs it. Of this yourself, Congress, and General Washington, are so perfect judges that it is not for me to point it out. You can as well, and will as impartially judge whether the late disasters in the south call for any of those future aids so generously tendered in your Excellency's Letter. If their action in the north will have more powerful influence towards establishing our Independence, they ought not to be wished for in the south, be the temporary misfortunes there what they will. upon this head we resign ourselves to the care of your gracious sovereign and good offices of your Excellency, who sees us all with an equal eye. Were it possible for this state to have an interest distinct from its confederates in any point, it would be in the bay of Chesapeake, the unavoidable channel of all our commerce. Our own attempts to establish a force on the water have been very unsuccessful; and our trade has been almost annihilated by the most contemptible part of the enemy's force on that element. I will acknowledge to you that I have thought (as I have also said to Congress) that their cares were not equally extended to us in this particular; and I should think myself justifiable in applying to the friendship of other powers for any naval aid, which could be given us seperately. But I am far from asking it of you, who have done for us more than we could have asked before, unless to protect the Commerce of your own state with us might be an object worthy a stationary force of some sort. What is best for your nation, is best for us also, who so effectually participate of the benefits of all their successors [successes]. I shall avail myself of every opportunity of manifesting my sense of the obligations we are under to them in general, and particularly for the friendly disposition your Excellency has been pleased to shew this state, and am with every sentiment of esteem and respect

Your Excellency's

most obedient & mo. hble serv<sup>t</sup>.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN JAMES MAXWELL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

The Honourable James Maxwell com<sup>r</sup>. of the Navy.-

In Council august 31. 1780.

Sir,

I inclose you a copy of a Letter from Governour Lee. We are very desirous to afford all the co-operation in our power. The brig and such of the boats and two eastern shore gallies as can be equipped we wish to have sent. we therefore think it will be advisable in you, laying aside all other business to proceed immediately to hampton

or whatever other place you can act from with most energy, and put everything in motion to prepare for this expedition. Knowing the design of the state of our bay, the force we can set on foot, and that prepared by maryland, you are desired to make your orders as to our part final and not to await my countersignature. be pleased to inform me by the return of the express what aid we can yield, and what time, place, & other circumstances of rendezvous you think most practicable in short what plan you mean to pursue that I may communicate the same to Governor Lee.

I am with great respect, sir,

Your m<sup>o</sup> obedient servant,

TH: JEFFERSON.

P. S. to captain Maxwells Lr<sup>e</sup>. of Sep<sup>r</sup>. 2nd to Commo Barron.

That Commodore Barron may clearly understand our intentions I would observe to him that the Maryland force is to sail from Baltimore on the 9th instant. If the vessels sail that day the Commodore will convoy them as he now intends, and if on his way up he should meet the Maryland force he is to leave the provision vessels, and join the Marylanders: but if he should not meet them, he is when he has attended the provision vessels as far as is necessary to proceed to Baltimore, and there join the Marylanders. if the provision vessels should not sail before the 9th Commodore Barron is to go round to York and there lie ready either to join the provision vessels or the Marylanders whichever shall first appear. if the provision vessels first appear he will join them, & conduct himself as in the case first supposed. The object of this joint cruize is to clear the bay. whether the cruize of our vessels is to be extended out of the capes, must be left to the discretion of the Commodore. If any future cruizes can be established in concert, we shall be pleased to co-operate in them so far as they shall have for their object the clearing Chesapeake bay or the vicinities of the Capes.—TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES  
IN CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Virginia Delegates in Congress.

Richmond August 31. 1780.

Gentlemen,

We agree to employ mr Dunlap<sup>137</sup> according to his proposals inclosed in your letter of the 15th instant, except that we must adhere to our requisition that a complete sheet of his weekly papers shall be kept clear of advertisements, and reserved for intelligence, essays etc. except that advertisements from the Legislature or Executive shall be put into the same sheet with the intelligence. The standing salary is to be fixed by the assembly, not by the executive, and we

<sup>137</sup>This was probably Mr. John Dunlap. The next year began to appear State publications printed by John Dunlap and James Hayes, "printers to the commonwealth".

will recommend to them in settling it to consider the utility of the weekly paper, and make liberal allowance for that over and above m<sup>r</sup> Dunlap's services in printing the public acts, journals, proclamations, advertisements, &c. and this we can venture to undertake will be done. As to money which you say mr Dunlap will want as soon as he comes, we are not in a condition to make him any advances between this and the meeting of assembly but immediately after their meeting we have no doubt it will be in our power. I hope his press will be got to work before they meet. We will give him any aid in our power in procuring a house here, and if we should have any vessels coming from the head of Elk down the bay they shall take in anything he pleases to have lodged here without charge. I would recommend strongly to mr Dunlap that his manager here obtain the postmaster's office of the place. Besides that it will carry custom to his shop, it will give him an exemption from militia duties which may otherwise be a considerable interruption.

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of respect, Gent,

Your mo obedient servant,

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

His Excellency General Washington.

Richmond august. 1780.

Sir,

At the request of General Hamilton<sup>138</sup> I transmit you Letters from General Specht and himself, and —, —, —, —, to Generals Philips and Reidesal, and a state of the deficiencies of provisions furnished to the barracks. I have no reason to doubt, the truth of the state they send, so far as it may be understood of animal food, for of meal they have had alway enough, but in justice to ourselves must assure you that the deficiencies have not been produced by any want of attention in the executive of this state. we have furnished to major Foresythe the Continental deputy commissary in this department in money and credit near four million of dollars since the first of november—£361,279-5-9. only. how much of this was between these two dates I am not informed. had he furnished a sufficient proportion to his deputy there (instead of laying it out himself in the lower and distant parts of the country from whence the waggonage was difficult) the post might have been supplied from the neighbouring counties as has appeared by the plenty carried to their daily market, and on which they have been actually subsisted tho' at their private expence, to the continental deputy quartermaster of this department. We have paid since the first of January about five millions of dollars of which he has transmitted to his deputy at the barracks £130,000. only with which sum he has not been able to transport provisions enough from

<sup>138</sup>This was Brigadier-General James Hamilton, in command of the Convention troops. Specht, mentioned in the same sentence, was also a brigadier-general in command of German Convention troops.



the distant stations at which they were stored. Besides the above means provided by the executive of this state for the support of the convention troops and guards we employed persons to purchase a large number of beeves in the western parts of this state and north carolina. unfortunately for the Albemarle post, the gentleman from whom the first supplies were expected had made his purchases about Charlotte in North Carolina, and we apprehend they have been most appropriated by the two contending armies lately in that quarter. we have now empowered the commissioners of the provision law in the several counties round about the barracks to take under that law provisions for the support of the post. this and the purchases of beeves before mentioned will be our principal dependence for some time to come and I hope they will be sufficient. I thought it necessary to mention to your Excellency these circumstances that you might be able to form a judgment of the causes from which these deficiencies have arisen. We shall omit nothing in our power for the support of the troops, but I must apprise you that our means of supply are not at present what they have been; so that they may perhaps suffer, tho they shall not if we can prevent it. it may be proper to observe that the Convention troops fare precisely as our own regiments of guards there the same deficiencies being due to these.

I have the honor to be with all possible respect & esteem.

Your Excellency's  
most obedient & hble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO TIMOTHY PICKERING.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Timothy Pickering <sup>139</sup> esquire of the Board of war.—

Richmond August 1780.

Sir,

At the request of General Hamilton I inclose you his state of the deficiencies of provisions furnished to the Barracks. I have no reason to doubt the truth of the state so far as it may be understood of animal food, for of meal they have had always enough: but in Justice &c. (precisely as the above Lre to General Washington only leaving out your Excellency in inserting your board.—

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of respect,

Your most obedient servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

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<sup>139</sup>Col. Timothy Pickering performed distinguished service in the Revolutionary War. He succeeded General Nathaniel Greene as quartermaster-general of Washington's army when Greene went to the South, and the quick march of that army from the Hudson River to the Chesapeake Bay in 1781 on its way to Yorktown was only made possible by the skill with which the quartermaster's department was managed. His later career was also distinguished.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CHARLES WASHINGTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Mr. Charles Washington fredericksburg.

Richmond Sep<sup>r</sup>. 2<sup>d</sup>. 1780.

*Sir,*

I have received your Letter of august 23. and in answer thereto am to inform you that I should not myself question but that auditors warrants would be received in payment for British escheated property: but I think certificates wou'd not be so received as the law has only made them paiaible in taxes. however it is not within the line of my authority to give any answer on this subject, which wou'd oblige the officers who have the direction of the treasury.

I am with great respect,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> servant.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO TIMOTHY PICKERING.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Timothy Pickering esquire of the Board of War.

Richmond septem<sup>r</sup> 2nd 1780.

*Sir,*

Your Letter of august the second, has come duly to hand. we agree with you that the post at fort Pitt may be supplied much more economically from the settlements round about it, and these settlements have such a sufficiency of provision for the subsistence of the post that it is a waste of effort and of the public treasure to purchase and remove them from the east side of the allegany the committe of congress at camp did not call on us for any supplies of provisions for that post. they required from us 60,000 wt of bacon to be sent northwardly which we are preparing to send. on the contrary, Congress desired [by] their resolution of June 17, that no supplies of provisions except bacon and so much corn as we can spare should be sent from this State northwardly. Indeed we have now no means of procuring a single article of provision, but by seizing them under an Act of Assembly made for that purpose and giving certificates receiveable from the holder in payment of his taxes. this act of power we cannot exercise in that country, as the late Line proposed between Pensylvania and us cedes the whole of it to them except a narrow slip to the westward of it the precise location of which is not yet known. Had the resolutions of congress required us to have furnished provisions to that post they must have gone from our counties between the blue ridge & Allegany, from which I fear we should have found it impracticable to have transported them at this time; as the small efforts which we can spare from the southern calls are insufficient for the supply of our posts down the Ohio at which we are obliged shortly to have about 800 men stationed for the defence of our own inhabitants thus unauthorized to take by force in the fort pitt settlements, and unpossessed

of money to purchase these, or to transport thither from our own country, any undertaking to supply the post wou'd only add to its distress by disappointments which necessities felt and foreseen would render unavoidable, and which by timely turning your attention else where may perhaps be provided against. I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO JOHN MATHEWS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

The honorable Jn<sup>o</sup>. Matthews <sup>140</sup> of the Committee of Congress at Head Quarters.

Richmond september 2nd. 1780.

Sir,

I have been honoured with your Letters of the 13 and 19 ult. no person can feel more poignantly than I do for the distresses of our army to the north nor the idea of blasting well grounded hopes of decisive operations there for want of those supplies which constitute the force of war. That something brilliant there shou'd take place is the more necessary to keep up the spirits of our people since the repeated calamities which have befallen us in the south. by the resolutions of congress of June the 17 we are desired to send 5000 militia to reinforce the southern army; and they determine that no supplies of men or provision (except bacon and so much grain as the executive of the state conceive may be spared from the southern army) be removed to the northward of the state, and that all monies raised within the state be appropriated to the southern department. The Assembly having determined instead of so many of the militia to raise 3000 or 3500 regulars for 18 months, Congress by their resolutions of august 5, direct that they shall join the southern army. From these several resolutions we did not conceive that men, money or provisions, were now expected from us to the northward, except the bacon called for (60000 wt) and so much corn as we can spare. I have returns of bacon collected for this purpose to the amount of 58,790 lb and there are several counties from which no returns are yet made. I have therefore hopes that the whole quantity is ready. of the collection of corn which has been returned to me between 13 and 14000 bushels lying in our northern counties will go to the northward under the orders we have given besides other quantities and not returned and therefore unknown and part of a former collection, for which the Q. M. had orders early in the spring which is not yet all sent. A prospect now opens to us of clearing our bay which will admit the safe transportation of these articles for which they have long waited. if any later resolutions of congress have directed men to go hence northwardly or other supplies of provision, they have not been communicated to me, nor

<sup>140</sup>Jno Mathews (the name is usually spelled with one "t") was from South Carolina and a man of considerable influence. He was a great friend of Washington's. He later became governor of South Carolina.

can I suppose such to have been formed as the calling northwardly the supplies of men and provisions from this state would be to leave a fourth of the enemy's force on the Continent to be opposed by the state of north Carolina alone, a state whose militia are not more than a 10th of those of the whole confederacy and these extremely divided in affection among themselves. To show you how little equal that state is to such a contest, and how largely and cogently we are called on to aid them I take the liberty of inclosing you extracts of a Lre from Governor Nash & of another from General Nath [sic] Gates, calls indeed which we are in no condition to answer fully or tolerably and I wish that with the aid of our sister aid [sic]<sup>141</sup> state of Maryland which seems also to have been put into in the southern department, the late losses may be supplied.—

I have the honor to be  
Your most ob servant,  
THO: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*", II, 334.)

Richmond, Sep. 3, 1780.

Sir,—It is not in my power to add any circumstance of consequence to those communicated to you by Genl. Gates, & as I suppose to the delegates of N. Caroline by Govr. Nash a letter from whom accompanies this, and I take for granted communicates the later intelligence which he was so kind as to transmit me at the same time. A force is again collected of between four & five thousand men, consisting of the remains of the Maryland brigade, of Porterfield's corps of regulars, Armand's<sup>142</sup> legion, such of the fugitive militia as are a little recovered of their fright, and new corps of N. Carolina militia who have readily embodied themselves. 300 regulars of this state marched from Chesterfield a week ago; about 50 march to-morrow, and there may be 100, or 150 more to go from the same post as soon as they get out of the hospital. Our 3000 new recruits will begin to rendezvous about the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. and may all be expected to be rendezvoused by the 25<sup>th</sup>. We have determined to call out also 2000 militia who however cannot be got to Hillsborough sooner than the

<sup>141</sup>This, of course, is simply a mistake of the clerk, as is "Nath. Gates" for "Horatio Gates" in the line above. The clerk whose duty it was to copy Jefferson's letters into the letter book was, indeed, guilty of many errors.

<sup>142</sup>Charles Tuffin Armand, Marquis de la Rouiere, succeeded Count Pulaski in command of the Pulaski Legion, the name of which was changed to "Armand's Partisan Corps". Gen. Henry Lee in his "Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States", says that the corps behaved very badly at Camden. He says in a footnote on p. 181: "Armand was one of the many French gentlemen who joined our army, and was one of the few who were honored with important commands. His officers were generally foreign, and his soldiers chiefly deserters. It was the last corps in the army which ought to have been intrusted with the van post; because, however unexceptionable the officers may have been, the materials of which the corps was composed did not warrant such distinction."



25<sup>th</sup> of October. This is as exact a state of the force we expect to oppose the enemy as I am able to give. Almost the whole of the small arms having been unfortunately lost in the late defeat, the men proposed for the field will be unarmed, unless it is in your power to furnish arms. Indeed not only a sufficient number is wanting to arm the men now raising, but, as our stores will be exhausted in effecting that as far as they will go towards it, it seems indispensable that Congress should form a plentiful magazine of small arms, & other military stores that we may not be left an unarmed prey to the enemy, should our Southern misfortunes be not yet ended.

Should any disaster, like the late one, befall that army which is now collecting, and which will be so much weaker in regulars as that brave corps is lessened in the unequal conflict which was put upon them, the consequences will be really tremendous if we be found without arms. With a sufficiency of these, there can be no danger in the end. The losses of our brethren in the mean time may be great, the distresses of individuals in the neighborhood of the war will be cruel, but there can be no doubt of an ultimate recovery of the country. The scene of military operations has been hitherto so distant from these states, that their militia are strangers to the actual presence of danger. Habit alone will enable them to view this with familiarity, to face it without dismay; a habit which must be purchased by calamity, but cannot be purchased too dear. In the acquisition of this, other misfortunes may yet be to be incurred, for which we should be prepared. I am earnestly therefore to solicit Congress for plentiful supplies of small arms, powder, flints, cartridge boxes, & paper; and to pray that no moment may be lost in forwarding them. Not doubting that the importance of this will be seen in the extent it deserves, I beg leave to subscribe myself with every sentiment of respect & esteem.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 331.*)

Richmond, Sep. 3, 1780.

Sir,—

As I know the anxieties you must have felt, since the late misfortune to the South, and our latter accounts have not been quite so favorable as the first, I take the liberty of inclosing you a state of this unlucky affair extracted from letters from General Gates, Genl. Stevens, & Govr. Nash, and taken as to some circumstances from an officer who was in the action. Another army is collecting: this amounted on the 23d ult. to between four & five thousand men consisting of about 500 Maryland regulars, a few of Hamilton's<sup>144</sup> artillery & Porterfield's corps, Armand's legion, such of the fugitive militia as had been reclaimed, and about 3000 N. Caroline militia newly embodied. We are told they will increase these to 8000. Our new recruits will

<sup>144</sup>This should be Harrison's—another mistake of the clerk's. Col. Charles Harrison was in command of the 1st Continental Artillery.

rendezvous in this state between the 10th & 25th inst. We are calling out 2000 militia who I think however will not be got to Hillsborough-till the 25th of October. About 350 regulars marched from Chesterfield a week ago; 50 march tomorrow and there will be 100 to 150 more from that post when they can be cleared of the hospital. This is as good a view as I can give you of the force we are endeavoring to collect. But they are unarmed. Almost the whole small arms seem to have been lost in the late rout. There are here on their way Southward 3000 stand of arms sent by Congress, and we have a few still remaining in our magazine. I have written pressingly, as the subject well deserves, to Congress, to send us immediate supplies, and to think of forming a magazine here that in case of another disaster we may not be left without all means of opposition.

I inclosed to your Excellency some time ago a resolution of the assembly instructing us to send a quantity of tobo. to No. York for the relief of our officers there, and asking the favor of you to obtain permission. Having received no answer I fear my letter or your answer has miscarried. I therefore now take the liberty of repeating my application to you.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL STEVENS.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, 333.)

Richmond, Septem. 3rd. 1780.

Dear Sir,—

I sincerely condole with you on our late Misfortune, which sits the heavier on my mind as being produced by my own Country Men.<sup>145</sup> Instead of considering what is past, however, we are to look forward and prepare for the future. I write Genl. Gates and Governor Nash as to Supplies and reinforcements. Another Body of 2000 Militia are ordered to you to rendezvous at Hillsborough, on the 25th October. They come from the middle and North Counties beyond and adjoining the blue Ridge. I am told, also, that a Spirit of raising Volunteers is springing up. The Truth of this however is not Certainly known, nor can its Success be depended on. Governor Nash writes me that 400 Waggons were lost. An officer here however thinks they are not. This indeed would be a heavy loss, as well as that of the small arms. We shall exert every Nerve to assist you in every way in our power, being as we are without any Money in ye Treasury, or any prospect of more till the Assembly meets in Octr.

<sup>145</sup>Jefferson is referring, of course, to the misconduct of the Virginia militia at Camden, though gallantly commanded by General Stevens. This militia had, however, been undergoing very fatiguing marching for some time and should have been allowed time for recuperation. On General Gates himself rests the responsibility for defeat. His conduct throughout the campaign was faulty and his disposition of the troops in the battle unintelligent.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. LEE, OF MARYLAND.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

His Excellency Governour Lee, Maryland,—

Richmond Sep<sup>r</sup> 3. 1780.—

Sir,—

I received your Excellency's Letter of the 28th of august on the 30th of the same month, and should have answered it immediately but that a previous enquiry was necessary what force we cou'd certainly contribute to the enterprize proposed. I have it now in my power to inform you that a brig carrying 14 guns, 4 pounders, and two swift sailing armed boats shall be ready to join their force from your state, being the only vessels we have manned: they are just now returned from a cruize up the bay where they took five schooners and row boats and are now waiting at hampton to convoy some provisions vessels up the bay. I have given notice to the commanding officer that your vessels will be ready to sail on the 9th and directed him, "if the provisions vessels sail before that day to convoy them as before intended, and if on his way up he should meet the Maryland force, he is then to leave the provision vessels and join that force, but if he should not meet them, he is, when he has attended the provision vessels as far as is necessary, to proceed to Baltimore & there join your vessels. If the provisions vessels shou'd not sail before the 9th he is to go round to york, and there lie ready either to join the provision vessels or those of Maryland which ever shall first appear. If the former he is on joining them to conduct himself as in the case first supposed. He is informed that the object of this joint cruize is to clear the bay, and whether it shall be extended as to our vessels out of the capes is left to his discretion, and also that if any future cruizes can be established in concert we shall be pleased to co-operate in them so far as they shall be [*sic*] have for their object the clearing Chesapeake Bay or the vicinities of its capes." it was also thought necessary that signals shou'd be agreed on whereby they might know each other on meeting; the inclosed have been sent for that purpose to our commanding officer and are submitted to your Excellency for communication to yours, if you think proper. I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient  
and most humble servant,  
TH: JEFFERSON.

signals whereby to know each other in case of meeting in the bay. He who first makes the signal is to take in his force [*fore*] top gallant sail and hoist the continental ensign at the fore top gallant mast head. the other to answer by letting fly his main top gallant sheets, and hoisting a continental Jack at the main top gallant mast head.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. NASH.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

His Excellency Governour Nash.

Richmond Sep<sup>r</sup>. 3rd. 1780.

Sir,

I am much obliged by your Excellency's favor of the 23rd ult. it contained much information, which I had not before received. the misfortune we have met with is indeed matter of great grief to me, and the more so as the militia of this state bore so eminent a share in producing it. it remains however that we look forward, and consider what is to be done to re-establish our affairs. I am happy to find that the militia of your state have turned out with such alacrity. we sent off from Chesterfield a week ago 350 regulars. 50 men will march tomorrow, and there will be 100, or 150 more from the same post as fast as they come out of the hospital. our new recruits about 3000 in number, who are to serve till Christmas twelvemonth will repair to the several places of rendezvous between the 10th and 25th instant, and we are calling in 2000 militia who I think cannot be at Hillsborough till the 25th of october. the 3000 stand of arms from Congress are at this place, and will be forwarded as soon as waggons can be procured. we have about 3000 stand of our own, but these will not suffice for our men, and we shall then be left utterly destitute. I have written most pressingly to Congress to send on small arms, powder, flints, cartridge boxes and paper. In the meantime we will endeavour to forward to you powder and flints. the distance is so much less from our lead mines to bring Hillsborough, that I hope you will find means to bring the lead from thence. the manager had orders to furnish Gen<sup>l</sup>. Gates. we too are utterly destitute of money, nor can have a shilling more till our Assembly meets in the middle of october. yet we cou'd procure provisions had we means of transporting them to you. but the difficulty of procuring waggons is next to insuperable. we shall however immediately send an Agent to do in this matter whatever is practicable. your draft in favor of Mr Ross shall be answered by some means or other.—

I am with every sentiment of respect

Your Excellency's most ob serv<sup>t</sup>.

THO: JEFFERSON.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GATES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Major General Horatio Gates.

Richmond sep<sup>r</sup> 3. 1780.

Sir,

I am extremely mortified at the misfortune incurred in the south & the more so as the militia of our state concurred so eminently in producing it. We have sent from Chesterfield a week ago 350 regulars, 50 more march tomorrow, and there will be 100, or 150 still to go



thence as fast as they come out of the hospital. our new recruits begin to rendezvous about the 10th instant and may be all expected to be in by the 25th. we call on 2000 more militia, who are required to be at Hillsborough by the 25th of october, but we have not arms to put into the hands of these men. there are here going on to you 3000 stand from Congress we have about the same number in our magazine. I trust Congress will aid us. we are desired in general to send you all kinds of military stores, but I wish you wou'd be so good as to send me a specification of the articles and quantities you most want, because our means of transportation being very limited we may otherwise misemploy even these powder, flints, cannon, cannonball are the only articles I think we can send. Lead I hope you will get immediately from the mines which will save a vast deal of transportation. our treasury is utterly exhausted and cannot be again replenished till the assembly meet in October, we might however furnish considerable quantities of provision were it possible to convey it to you. we shall immediately send out an agent into the counties to collect and forward all he can. will militia volunteer horse be of service to you & how many?

I have the Honor to be &c.

THO: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Colo William Davies.

Sir,

Richmond Sept. 3d. 1780.

The Bearers of your Letters have unfortunately called on me generally in the afternoon when it is impossible to consult the Council, and of course to answer you, which occasions a delay of answer. this was the case with dr Munro. I now inclose you an order for the medicine. We can furnish you with about 400 yds of a coarse woollen which may be made to answer the purpose of blankets in the hospital. I am sorry it is not in my power to order a particular issue of cloathing to you as requested. the council have fixed by their rules the manner of issuing, & determined it shall be general, that all may fare alike. Tho' the stock procured is likely to be small it is impossible probable [*sic*] that whatever it be will be provided before the Officers go on with the new recruits.

I am sir with great respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

THO: DAVIES [should, of course, be JEFFERSON.]

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

The County Lieutenants,<sup>146</sup>

requiring them to send on Militia to the southward.

Sir,

In Council Sept 4 1780.

The late misfortune to the southward, renders it necessary that we send on a reinforcement of militia from this state to assist in stop-

<sup>146</sup>This is a form letter sent after the disaster of Camden to the county-lieutenants of those counties which had already sent quotas of militia to the South;

ping the progress of the enemy should they be able to do no more. other counties are therefore applied to for quotas of militia proportioned to those which were required by the General assembly from the counties first called on, of which yours was one. justice to those now summoned to duty as well as those on whom the call will come hereafter in the course of rotation, requires that full quotas being expected from them full quotas shall also be afforded by the counties called on them [*sic*] before them. I am therefore to require from your county men under the command of such officers below the rank of field officers as you shall find proper to send with them, being the number which failed to march when formerly ordered. I am to inform you that any man on whom the lot now falls make up for the delinquency of those who failed to march on the former occasion shall be excused on delivering to the jail of your county on warrant. from you, one of those delinquents if able bodied or any other of y<sup>r</sup> militia who shall have actually marched and since deserted. and also that you shall have credit on the number now required for any such delinquents who shall have joined General Stevens, or whom you shall have taken and sent into duty before you receive this. the men now called for, and the delinquents and deserters who may be delivered to you are to proceed as soon as possible to Hillsborough in N. Carolina at which place they must be by the 25th of Octo. or as much sooner as may be, because by the last day of that month the time of service of the militia now in Carolina will be expired. you are desired to make an exact return to me distinguishing how many of those you send are new militia, how many delinquents, and how many deserters, as the two latter classes are made regular soldiers for eight months as a punishment of their offence whereas those newly called are to serve three months only from the time of their getting to the head quarters of the commanding officer to the southward. I inclose you a power of taking provisions waggons and other necessaries for the men on their march with an extract of the act of assembly authorizing it, which I would recommend you to put into the hands of some discreet person of the party, capable of doing duties of quarter master and commissary. I am to desire you to be very attentive to the taking and sending back all deserters & delinquents hereafter as we shall repeat our calls on every county till they shall have actually sent their full number into the field. and in doing this let me point your attention particularly to those dastardly fugitives from the late rout in Carolina, who have so much disgraced their country and who by such flight come within description of deserters.

I am your most obedient servant,  
THO: JEFFERSON.

as the letter following this one is a form sent to those counties now for the first time called on.

Everything possible was being done to rush men and supplies to the Carolinas. The next day, for instance, Sept. 5, the commissioner of war wrote as follows to Mr. Granville Smith, of Williamsburg:

"A resolution of Council has passed directing that instructions be given to one of the Assistant Q. M. to proceed to the Westward for the purpose of purchasing one hundred waggons & teams. I must request that you will come up here as quickly as possible to prepare to go on that Business".

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

To ditto.

In Council sep<sup>r</sup>. 4. 1780.

Sir,

The state being unprovided with Blankets for the eighteen months men, I am to desire you earnestly to recommend to them to carry their own blankets the value of which they shall be immediately paid.

I am sir,

Your very humble servant.

TH: JEFFERSON

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

The County Lieutenants of \_\_\_\_\_  
Sending relief of Militia to Southward.

In Council September 4th. 1780.

Sir,

The late misfortune to the southward renders it necessary that we send a reinforcement of militia from this state to assist in stopping the progress of the enemy should they be able to do no more. I have in the first place required the counties which lately sent Militia to the southward to furnish now so many as failed to march then of the quota called on. But to make up a substantial aid otherwise other counties must contribute. I am therefore to require \_\_\_\_\_ of your militia to proceed as soon as possible under the command of such officers below the rank of field officers as you shall find proper to send with them to Hillsborough in North Carolina, at which place they must be by the 25th of October or as much sooner as may be, because by the last day of that month the time of service of the militia now in Carolina will be expired: They are to continue in service three months from the time of their getting to the head quarters of the commanding officer to the southward. In requiring this quota from you we have been governed by the proportion called for by the general assembly on the late occasion from the other counties, and have endeavoured to make allowance for the numbers withdrawn from you by the late draught [and also for those sent or to be sent to the western country] you will be pleased to make return to me of the names of those who shall be ordered to march and of those who shall fail; and to the latter to spare no endeavours to take and send them on duty as justice to the counties, on whom we shall be obliged to call hereafter in the course of rotation requires that we repeat our calls on the counties to whose turn it falls previously until they shall have actually sent their full number into the field. I inclose you a power of taking provisions, waggons, and other necessaries for the men on their march with an extract of the act of assembly authorizing it, which I wou'd recom-

mend to you to put into the hands of some discreet person of the party capable of doing the duties of quarter master and commissary. arms will be provided at Hillsborough.<sup>147</sup>

I am sir,

Your most obedient servant,

THO: JEFFERSON.

Frederick. 7 copies. Loudon etc. 5 copies.

leaving out the part in crotchets.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
PROVISION LAW.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

To the Commissioners of the Provision Law.

In Council September 1780.

Gentlemen,

As it appears by the returns made to us that the spirits already procured under the provision law, are sufficient to answer the public purposes for a considerable time and that the quantities of rum imported and of brandy and corn spirits likely to be made is such as shou'd justly reduce the price of these articles far below what has been allowed by the act of assembly, you are therefore desired to make an immediate return of the quantities you have, and to discontinue from the time of receiving this, the taking any more than is already actually seized. as soon as the season is such as that wheat of the late crop will keep either in bulk or manufactured, you will be pleased to procure so much as will make                      pounds of flour and have the same manufactured barrelled, and stored at the places pointed out in your first instructions. the seconds shou'd be made into biscuit if you can have done it [*sic*]; otherwise have it barrelled and stored as before directed with respect to the flour. the cleanings and bran may serve as forage for the horses you use in transportation or may be bartered for any other article you are directed to procure or given in pay for manufacturing or other service. corn of the present years growth is not to be taken, till further orders and your powers as to salt have been discontinued by the act of assembly since the first of last month. in all other respects you will pursue the instructions heretofore given; making your return regularly once a month. you are also desired to transmit to me a list of the certificates you have given, specifying the persons' names, the sum due to them and the date of the certificates, that it may be lodged with the auditors as a check on counterfeit certificates and hereafter let such a list accompany every return.<sup>148</sup>

<sup>147</sup>There is in the Va. State Library a copy of this letter intended for Frederick County. The number of men to be furnished by this county was 82.

On the margin is written:—The state being unprovided with Blankets for the 18 months Men I am to desire you earnestly to recommend to them to carry their own Blankets the value of which they shall be immediately paid.

<sup>148</sup>In the letter book under date of September 7 is given this same letter specifically sent to the commissioners of the Provision Law for Dinwiddie, Chester-



GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 336.)

Richmond Sep. 6. 1780.

Sir,—

Since the dispatches forwarded three days ago I have received others from Genl. Gates which he was pleased to leave open for my perusal and desired they might then be sent on by the line of Expresses. He has therein informed you of the articles he has called on us for, and it may be important that you should know as well what we cannot as what we can do. Of the tents desired we cannot procure a single one, because the stuff is not in our country and we have not money to procure them elsewhere our treasury being entirely exhausted, and no possibility of its being replenished until the meeting of assembly. The articles of sugar & coffee I do not expect to be able to procure. The residue of his requisitions I have hopes may be complied with. I observe he desires provisions from Maryland & I make no doubt they will be necessary. I am only at a loss how they are to be transported; for despairing of our being able to transport to the Southward any of our provisions collected on the North side of James river, I have given orders for sending them to the Northward. I am now apprehensive that this may be wrong, and should really be glad to be advised by Congress what to have done. It will seem inconsistent for our provisions to be going Northward while those of Maryland are passing to the Southward.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO PERSONS APPOINTED TO  
BUY HORSES.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1780.)

To the Persons appointed to purchase horses under the resolution  
of June 14th 1780.

In Council Sep<sup>r</sup> 6th. 1780.

As we have reason to believe the number of horses desired is not yet purchased, we think it necessary to extend the time of delivery

field, Amelia, Cumberland, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, and Spotsylvania. The amount of flour to be furnished by each of these counties was as follows: Dinwiddie, 180,000 lbs.; Chesterfield, 180,000; Amelia, 300,000; Cumberland, 300,000; Powhatan, 180,000; Prince Edward, 120,000; Goochland, 240,000; Hanover, 150,000; Henrico, 150,000; Spotsylvania, 150,000.

There is also a letter of the same date exactly similar to the above, with the exception that the sentences relating to flour are omitted, directed to the commissioners of the Provision Law for the following counties: Northampton, Accomac, Hampshire, Frederick, Berkeley, Loudon, Fauquier, Prince William, Fairfax, Westmoreland, Northumberland, Orange, Culpeper, Stafford, Caroline, King George, Richmond, Essex, Middlesex, Lancaster, Gloucester, New Kent, King William, King and Queen, York, Warwick, Bedford, Buckingham, Amherst, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, Prince George, Charles City, Surry, James City, Williamsburg, Isle of Wight, Nansemond, Norfolk, Princess Anne, Elizabeth City, Halifax, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Sussex, Southampton, Augusta, and Botetourt.

further to the 15th of october, only desiring you to forward what you have and praying your greatest exertions to make up the number desired as they are extremely wanted to the southward.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. WILLIAM EATON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

In Council september 7th 1780.

*Sir*

To mr. William Eaton.

You are hereby appointed a Commissioner of the provision Law in all the counties on the south side of James river, but restrained especially to the procuring houses for storing them, waggons, carts horses, gear, drivers, boats and other vessels and their crews for transporting provisions, materials for making such barrels or other proper casks or boxes for containing the same, and pastures for the live cattle. you are to transmit to me monthly by safe conveyances duplicate Lists of all the certificates or receipts you shall have given in pursuance of this power; specifying the name of the person the article seized or service performed the price to be paid & the date of the certificate to be lodged as a check against counterfeit certificates. in the execution of this power we trust to your discretion to make it as light and equal as you can on the people; and pay attention also to any particular circumstances which may distinguish special cases.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. WILLIAM EATON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Mr. William Eaton.

In Council September 1780.

*Sir,*

The distress of the southern army calling for our greatest exertions, it becomes necessary that we avail ourselves of the provision law to supply them; and as a call on the counties generally would produce a glut for a short time, which would exhaust them at once, and leave the army again in distress we find it necessary to put into the hands of some one person who shall call on so many counties at a time and so on successively as may furnish uniform and constant supplies. this duty we expect from you. you will receive herewith blank warrants of appointments which you will fill up with the names of two or three of the most honest and discreet persons in the counties of Pr Anne, Norfolk, Nansemond, Isle of Wight, S<sup>o</sup>hampton and Surry, whereby they will be empowered to take live cattle for the use of the army. the acts of assembly—made on the subjects and the warrants of appointment herewith transmitted will inform them in what manner they are to conduct themselves. it will be proper for you to withdraw first the beef to be spared from those counties most exposed to the enemy and to draw them off the closest and so proceed to the other counties in order as they stand exposed; it will be necessary for you to provide pastures, drovers etc. for the rent and hire of which

you must draw on me. keep up a punctual correspondence with the commissary attending the southern army that there may be a proper concert in your proceedings for its support. there is at present corn collected in those counties by commissioners of the provision law formerly appointed therein: and as soon as the corn of the present year is fit for use and will keep we shall take measures for procuring that also. the transportation of this is put on you likewise. you know the great scarcity of carts and waggons. we give you a power of impressing them, but are assured they cannot avail you much. turn your attention therefore to transportation by water and south quay seems the proper point from which to set out. three routs present themselves for carrying thence either wholly or in part by water to Halifax. 1. down the black water, and up meherrin creek or weecansee creek both of which point far towards Halifax. want of information prevents my knowing whether they are navigable. I fear they are not. 2. down blackwater and up meherrin river to the nearest landing to Halifax. this will leave a considerable portage. 3. down blackwater and Chowan and up Roanoke. this is very long and subject to great delays from freshes. you will judge from enquiring & the means of transportation either by land or water of which you shall be possessed, which of these is most practicable. inform me once a month what supplies you shall [have] furnished what prospects you have, and what counties you are engaged in [at] the time; and before you shall have fully executed your commission in all those for which you have now warrants apply to me for others. Your trouble in this undertaking shall be duly rewarded.

Form of the blank warrants given mr. Eaton for the appointment of Commissioners of live cattle in P. Anne, Norfolk, Nansem<sup>d</sup>., Isle of Wight, S<sup>o</sup>hampton & Surry.

In Council sep<sup>r</sup> 7th 1780.

You are hereby appointed a commissioner under the act for procuring a supply of provisions and other necessities for the use of the army within the county of \_\_\_\_\_ but restrained specially to the procuring live cattle fit for beef & pastures to confine them in. as to the number of live cattle to be collected by you, not exceeding the proportion allowed by law; you will govern yourself by such instructions as you will receive from mr Eaton, appointed specially to receive these beeves from you at such place as he shall point out, from whence he is to convey them to the southern army. you are to transmit monthly to me a return of the amount of the beef you seize, and lists of all the certificates or receipts you shall have given, specifying the name of the owner, the price to be paid and the date of the certificate. duplicate of these should come by different safe conveyances as they will be the only checks on counterfeits. That you may be informed of the manner in which you are to proceed you will receive herewith an extract from the act of Assembly.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL GRIFFIN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Colo Samuel Griffin.

Richmond september 8. 1780.

*Sir,*

On the receipt of your first letter on the subject of the public prison, we desired colo Muter as commissioner of the war office, to take order for making the necessary repairs. we knew that [what] repairs mr. Brian was then returning who executes provost duties there. I hope therefore that this business is in a proper train. It is not intended that any prisoners shall ever be kept there longer than till a guard can attend to bring them to the prison ship or carry them to winchester. it was utterly unknown to me that a single prisoner was there at this time, having never been informed that any were sent there since we had the jail cleared of them. I must take for granted that the commanding officer there has by this time seen to their safe custody or to their being forwarded here. I shall always be obliged to you for any information of pretermissions of this kind that I may have it in my power to take order in them. I am authorized to assure you that the bills drawn on us by mr Pollard,<sup>148a</sup> and formerly presented by you, shall be discharged at the current exchange, at the time of actual paiment.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COMMODORE BARRON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1780.)*

Commodore James Barron.

In Council September 1780.

*Sir*

The inclosed deposition will inform you of the reason we have [to] believe that the inhabitants of the tangier islands supply the enemy's cruisers in the bay with provisions: we have therefore adopted the only legal method we have of drawing from them their surplus of provisions. we think it will be prudent to leave them no more than what is absolutely requisite for their own subsistance. you will of course be obliged to execute this business principally by deputy and as to the mode of getting their cattle which we are told are nearly wild we leave it to yourself to contrive. I suppose they must be slaughtered and salted there, for which reasons I inclose you an order for salt. I really think the effecting this business immediately and fully an object of consequence. I write to the governor of Maryland on the same subject not doubting they will pay attention to their part of the same islands equally culpable with ours.

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<sup>148a</sup>This is a copyist's error for "Pollock." See *ante*.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COMMODORE BARRON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Commodore James Barron.

In Council sep<sup>r</sup> 1780.

*Sir,*

As large quantities of provision are of necessity drawn from the western part of this state for the support of the army, and it is just that this burthen shou'd be borne equally by all, we think it necessary to extend the provision law to the islands within this state, lying between the middle of Chesapeake bay and the eastern shore, and hereby appoint you commissioner of the said law within those islands. we inclose you for your government a copy of the provision law and an extract from another act made in aid thereof. the provision you shall collect there more than sufficient for the use of our cruisers vessels you will deliver to the commissary for the time state.<sup>149</sup> You are to transmit me from time to time returns of the quantities you take and lists of all certificates or receipts given by you specifying the name of the owner the price to be paid and date of the certificate.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR JOHN NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Major John Nelson.

Richmond Sep<sup>r</sup> 8, 1780.

*Sir,*

On receipt of your Letter I have directed cloathing to be got ready for your men. Lieutenant Armistead<sup>150</sup> is authorized to purchase twelve horses for you. he informs me that six saddles are still wanting. these we shall find it difficult to procure, because they are only in the hands of merchants who will let us have nothing, but for ready money which we have not, nor can have till the meeting of the assembly. we shall direct every endeavour to be used for procuring them. with respect to your officers going into continental service, we can have no objections to putting two of the troops together on the continental establishment, but that it transcends our power. the assembly alone can do this with the consent of Congress. if the officers chuse it I will propose it. the third troop must be reserved for the post in Albemarle where their services in retaking deserters are indispensable. you desire blank commissions to be sent you, but do not explain what kind of commissions or for what purpose.

P. S. the troop at the barracks was lent to the Continent for the use of that particular post. they are not subject to their orders for any other purpose.

<sup>149</sup>This is printed as in the original. The word "state" ought to be "being."

<sup>150</sup>William Armistead, ensign 11th Va., 11th March, 1776; cornet First Continental Dragoons, 1777; 1st lieutenant; captain, 1782; retired Nov. 9, 1782.

[On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September Major Charles Dick wrote to Colonel George Muter, commissioner of war, a letter in reference to the needs of the gun factory at Fredericksburg, of which he was superintendent. This letter was referred to the governor and Council, and on the back of it—the letter is preserved in the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.—is the following written by Gov. Jefferson:]

In Council Sept: 8<sup>th</sup> 1780.

A ton of lead should be sent to Fredericksburg, in waggons, returning empty to M<sup>r</sup> Washington, who has the care of the powder—or order may be drawn on him also, for 30 bushels of Salt.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEO. ROGERS CLARK.

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 455.)

Richmond Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sir Your Letters of July by M<sup>r</sup> Randolph came safe to hand. In a former letter to you on the Subject of this summer's operations (which I hear you never received) I informed you that the County Lieutenants to whom I had referred to determine on a plan of co-operating with their militia had estimated the expence at 1,995,000 pounds a greater sum than [than] we had in our treasury, could every other demand of money for government have been suspended. this of course negatived the attempt on a large scale for this season: and indeed no wealth of which we have a prospect will enable us to undertake an expedition on their estimate, while the war continues to the Eastward. I have no doubt whatever but this estimate might by a judicious hand be greatly abridged. Thus disappointed of our first wish, we determined to order 280 militia out, with Col<sup>o</sup> Crocket's men, who tho' principally intended to be stationed at posts, were yet made subject to your orders & expected to be employed by you in active enterprises as long as the season would admit. Colo Crocket will now march within a few days. in order that you might be supplied with provisions from the inhabited country between the blue ridge & Ohio a Commissary & Quarter master (M<sup>r</sup> Boush) was appointed at Winchester and another (evan Baker) in Washington with orders to forward their provision to you. from the former I have heard nothing. the latter is preparing necessaries for Col<sup>o</sup> Crocket's march. Our late misfortunes to the Southward will be related to you by M<sup>r</sup> Randolph. they occasion great calls on our militia & will compleatly disable us from further strengthening you this season. I am to ask the favor of you to countersign all demands for money which arise under you. We have been obliged to decline many, which very possibly might be just; because they were drawn by persons unknown to us, & for services perhaps not authorized by you. The militia accounts incurred in the expedition you are now engaged in must come to the auditors authenticated in the same way. Some Draughts brought by M<sup>r</sup> Randolph have been rejected for this reason. Yours

& Major Slaughter's<sup>151</sup> are duly honoured: there happened an unlucky circumstance for the owners of the latter. the Assembly had raised the price of land by a law which was not to take place but on my receiving a certain matter of information & then proclaiming it. I happened to be from this place a fortnight. during my absence this information came, as did M<sup>r</sup> Randolph. he had occasion to leave town. I returned & withheld the proclamation two days waiting for his return that the peoples orders might be paid off and their money laid out as they had directed in lands at the old price. unluckily he did not come for several days, & we were obliged to proclaim the law, which put it out of our power to relieve them.

As to the choice of the situation on the Mississippi we leave it still, as before, to yourself altogether. I wish it were possible to engage the Piankishaws in war against the British Indians. Should the ammunition sent and to be sent this year to the Westward be insufficient, we will send a further quantity if desired by you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," II, 337.)

Richmond Sept. 8, 1780.

Sir,—On receipt of the resolutions of Congress of June 19, for procuring Horses to remount White's and Washington's Cavalry, we laid the same before the Assembly and were authorized by them to engage the State for payment. We thereon sent out powers to the different Counties to purchase 160 Horses which were properly described in addition to 83 the purchase of which we had before authorized.

That some regard might be paid to economy we at first restrained the prices to average not more than £2500—and afterwards £3000 exclusive of incidental expences.— The purchases have not been so soon made as we expected tho' a considerable number have been made and the Gentlemen employed are still going on.— The inclosed Letter from Colo. White complaining of this limitation of price, was not calculated either in its matter or stile to move us to an alteration of our instructions; conscious that our endeavours to reconcile oeconomy and the public wants must meet with the approbation of every person who attends at all to the dangers impending over us from circumscribed finances. Your resolution of August 7. which came to hand two or three Days ago and which restrain the allowance for Horses in another instance, tho' to be used in a similar way to 100 Dolls hard money equal only to about £2000 at the present exchange have induced a doubt in us whether you may chuse that any future purchases

<sup>151</sup>This was George Slaughter, born in Culpeper County, Va., who had attained the rank of major in the 12th Virginia Regiment by the latter part of 1777, but has very soon thereafter been compelled to resign by ill health. In 1779 he raised reenforcements in Virginia for Clark's army. When Clark returned to Virginia after the Shawnee expedition, he left Slaughter in command. He later became lieutenant-colonel of all the Virginia forces in Kentucky. (See Kellogg, "Frontier Retreat on the Upper Ohio," pp. 179 and 180.)

for White's and Washington's Cavalry should be made at so high a price as we had authorized and has caused me to trouble you with a Letter desiring your advice on that head.— From the tardy progress made in purchasing at £3000 I must suppose that any considerable reduction would put a stop to them altogether. While it shows that out allowance was not extravagant, the numbers purchased also prove that it was not so frugal as to defeat the purpose.

Your instructions shall be implicitly followed, and will I hope be communicated to me.

P. S. I beg leave to add that measures are taken for clothing and furnishing twelve horses to, Major Nelson's two troops, which are what is wanting to equip them for service. It will be impossible to permit Capt. Read's troop to leave the barracks without giving up all fugitives from the Convention troops.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE CHEVALIER D'ANMOURS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

The Chevalier D'Anmours, french Consul.—

Richmond sep<sup>r</sup> 9th 1780.—

Sir,

your favour of the 3rd instant came to hand last night by captain Leport. it is unfortunate for you that major Galvan had left the station. it happened thus. the sailing of the french fleet in two divisions was a circumstance equally unknown to major Galvan and myself. I received a Letter from general Washington congratulating me on the arrival of the *fr. fleet* in general terms, and no idea held out that it was only one division and that a second was still to come. I sent to major Galvan an extract of that Letter who thinking I suppose that the purpose of his mission was over and that the Letter which shou'd have conveyed him orders to withdraw must have miscarried, returned for Philadelphia, and sent in the line of expresses. so much in justice to him and myself. it happens unfortunately for the purpose now in contemplation that Commodore Barron with our brig & two armed boats sailed this day up the bay to form a junction with some vessels of the state of maryland for the purpose of a joint cruize to clear the bay and the vicinities of its capes of the little hostile vessels which have so long infested it. this leaves us without a single vessel which cou'd answer your purpose, and in actual readiness. we have one which requires some alterations in her sails and cleaning which we are assured shall be completed in a week. having no earlier resource, she is ordered to be made ready with all possible dispatch, and I think you may be assured of her going to you within that time. an officer will be put into her with orders to follow y<sup>r</sup> directions implicitly. I enclose you a Letter to colo. Wishart for a guard of 12 men, the number major Galvan had, desiring him if possible to raise six or eight militia horse to attend you. I also enclose you an order authorizing any commissary, quarter master, commissioners of the grain tax or the provision law or other purpose [persons] having public provisions in their



hands or authority to procure them to furnish to yourself guard and horsemen whatever provisions and forage may be necessary. the expresses one of whom will carry this set out this evening or tomorrow morning to form a line between us. one of these is stationed at Sandy point, another at Sleepy hole, which divides the whole distance into three of from 40 to 45 miles. their orders are to travel by night and by day without regard to weather, noting on their dispatches the hour and minute at which each man receives & delivers them, that we may immediately know in what hands any delay happens. in this way if they do their duty intelligence should pass between us in 24 hours. I was setting in motion this morning the line of expresses from hence to Phila: your letter to the french minister therefore went by this channel & saves Mr. Laport the journey. the minister will receive it probably in three days. I shall be glad to use any means in my power to make your situation as safe and comfortable as possible, and am with the greatest esteem & respect.<sup>152</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL WILLIAM WISHART.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1780.)

Colo. William Wishart of Princess [Anne] County.—

Richmond sep<sup>r</sup> 9 1780.

Sir,

The french Consul the Chevalier D'Anmours goes to take the post lately occupied by Major Galvan. he will require the same attention, which I prayed you to shew the former gent. you will be pleased to

<sup>152</sup>This letter well illustrates Jefferson's skill in handling difficult personages. The Chevalier D'Anmours, French consul in Virginia, was puffed up with his own importance and had queer views of the privileges that should be granted French subjects in Virginia. His letter to Governor Jefferson, to which the foregoing letter is a reply, is not now, unfortunately, among the archives of the State, but the letter he wrote the governor on coming to Virginia has been preserved. It has been printed by Dr. R. A. Stewart on pp. 142 & 143 of No. 3 of Vol. I of "The Researcher," under the caption "The Bizarre Diplomacy of the Chevalier D'Anmours." It exhibits the general attitude of its author.

From Jefferson's letter given above it is seen that the chevalier had formed the design of going to Cape Henry to await the arrival of the French fleet (the second division, the first having already reached the coast of America), or, preferably to sail out in a Virginia vessel—probably from Lynnhaven Bay—to meet the ships. When he reached Cape Henry, he found Major Galvan (see note 96) gone. Galvan, on hearing of the arrival of the fleet and not knowing that a second division was to follow, had supposed his mission ended. There was no State vessel at hand suitable for the chevalier's purposes. He evidently wrote Jefferson in a huff. It is to be hoped that his ill humor was removed by Jefferson's conciliatory tone and the provisions promised to be made in furtherance of the execution of his designs.

The letter is further of interest as showing that dispatches from Cape Henry, by the use of three relays of horses and riders, would reach Richmond in 12 hours. The first rider would take the message to Sleepy Hole, on the Nansemond River. This river crossed, the next rider would go to Claremont (on the James, opposite Sandy Point). The third horseman would then ride post-haste from Sandy Point to Richmond.

The Captain Laport mentioned in the letter was evidently an attache of the French embassy in Philadelphia. Colonel Wishart was William Wishart, county-lieutenant of Princess Anne County.

furnish him with a guard of twelve men with proper officers from your militia or the ranging company as you find best. I must also desire you to use your utmost endeavours to raise six or eight men to furnish their own horses and do the duty of lookouts, the whole to be subject to the orders of the Council. I furnish him with authority to call on any person having public provisions to furnish himself, guard and horsemen with provisions and forage. the distance between us rendering it difficult to give new directions on any particular emergency I must beg the favor of you to consider it as an intention that every aid shall be furnished which the Cheva: D'Anmours shall desire and that you wou'd use those diligent exertions in furnishing them, a confidence in which occasions the present reliance on you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Colo. William Davies.

Richmond September 9th. 1780.

Sir,

The Sentence of the court martial however inadequate the punishment is to the offence, seems to be such as the law has authorized. except as to the musket lost. for his indemnification we shall take more effectual measures by stopping the full worth out of the pay of the deserter. The Act of assembly named six places of rendezvous for the new recruits & authorized us to name two more and to appoint an officer to attend at each place to review and receive them. this power we delegated to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Muhlenburg who has accordingly sent out orders [to] officers. we are endeavouring to get blankets from Baltimore. besides this we expect some by importation. however apprehensive that neither of these resources might be timely enough, the measure you recommended was adopted, and an assurance given that such of the new recruits as wou'd bring their blankets into the service shou'd be paid for them. Dr Foushe<sup>153</sup> on receiving my Letter to deliver you the medicine written for, called on me for and informed me there were not in our stores more than two or three articles wanted, and that the house not being yet ready to receive them they still remained in such a state that he could not get at any particular article. I think that he cou'd do it within a few days.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN SMITH.<sup>154</sup>

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Richmond Sep<sup>r</sup> 9, 1780.

Sir,

Your favour of the 31st came to hand yesterday. we had been

<sup>153</sup>Dr. William Foushee entered the war as surgeon to the 9th Virginia Regiment. Later he was appointed director of the hospital at Richmond, serving till close of war. After the war he became one of the leading citizens of Richmond—was the city's first mayor. A good account of him is to be found in Mordecai's "Richmond in By-Gone Days."

<sup>154</sup>County-lieutenant of Frederick Co.

apprized of the destruction of fort Randolph<sup>155</sup> soon after it happened, but it was thought that the importance of the post required that it shou'd be rebuilt, and we have no means of doing this without the aid of militia. besides re-establishing this post and establishing others, we expect the militia will be engaged ranging on active enterprises against the indians. Colo Crocket will be ready to march in a few days. we suppose he has taken measures for rendezvousing and marching all the militia from the several counties; this business having been confided to him. we shall be glad if you can engage a guard for the prisoners at Winchester for a twelve month. we however have no authority to engage them [but] as militia which you know precludes cloathing. it will be a proper subject of application to the assembly, who I am satisfied wou'd give a pay equal to what it shou'd be. there is the greater need for this as the prisoners there are likely to multiply since we have concluded to turn over all we get to the Continent. there are 50 here now to be sent there and as many more coming from Carolina.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. THOMAS PLEASANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

To mr Thomas Pleasants.

Richmond september 11th, 1780—

Sir,

I have [been] waiting hoping to see mr Ross. I suppose his indisposition detains him. in the meantime a matter of pressing emergency will not admit a longer delay it is the sending cloathing or something which may procure it, to our officers in Charles town an idea on this subject which you dropt in conversation with me has made impression and led me to enquiries which have proved it was just. I mean the converting tob<sup>o</sup> which cannot be sent to Charles Town into hard money or good bills and forwarding that to them. [By] your assurances that this operation was practicable I was led to suppose you might yourself be willing to give hard money or good bills for tobacco, or at least that you cou'd inform me who wou'd. We have in our possession notes for two or three hundred hhds and belonging to us (the notes for which may be got by sending expresses) eight or nine hundred hhds more. of this we woud gladly convert six hundred hogsheads into hard money or good bills. very little of this tobacco is on James river, nearly the whole on Potowmack and Rappahanock. some of this is old, and some light. we will bear the expence of re-inspecting, and reweighing to make them agreeable to the purchaser. will it suit you to purchase, or can you tell me who wou'd probably purchase on these terms? if you can do nothing in this matter, be so good as to advise me as a friend what I can best do for I am no merchant nor have as yet any public officer on whom I can put this business. I send the Bearer express to you and shall hope your answer by him, and am with great esteem,

<sup>155</sup>Fort Randolph was at the junction of the Great Kanawha and the Ohio—named for Peyton Randolph.



## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GATES.

*(From Bergh "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," IV, 100.)*

Richmond, September 11, 1780.

*Dear Sir,*—Your bill for £54,712 in favor of Mallette, has been duly honored, that for £95,288 we shall also discharge; another bill (which being delivered back to be presented at the end of the ten days, I cannot recollect either the name of the holder or the sum) has been accepted. We are now without one shilling in the treasury, or a possibility of having it recruited till the meeting of the Assembly, which takes place on the 15th of the next month. In this condition Mr. Duncan Ochiltree found us when he delivered your letter of the 5th instant, and draught for £100,000 in favor of Col. Polk. The only thing in our power, after stating to him our situation, was to assure him that is should be paid as soon as we should be enabled to do it by the Assembly, which I flatter myself will be as soon as they meet. Of this I am to notify him, that he may know when to call for payment. I shall be very glad if you can accomodate, to the same circumstances, any other draughts you may find it necessary to make on me.

We have sent a Mr. Paton, Commissary for the State, to collect beeves in our southern counties and forward them to your army. He has orders to keep up a proper correspondence with your Commissary.

I have the honor to be with the greatest esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. STEVENS.

*(From Ford's Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 338.)*

Richmond Sept. 12. 1780.

*Sir,*—Your letters of Aug. 27 & 30th. are now before me. The subsequent desertions of your militia have taken away the necessity of answering the question how they shall be armed? On the contrary as there must now be a surplus of arms I am in hopes you will endeavor to reserve them as we have not here a sufficient number by 1500, or 2000 for the men who will march hence, if they march in numbers equal to our expectations. I have sent expresses into all the counties from which those militia went requiring the County Lieutenants to exert themselves in taking them; & such is the detestation with which they have been received that I have heard from many counties they were going back of themselves. You will of course hold courts martial on them & make them souldiers for eight months. If you will be so good as to inform me from time to time how many you have we may perhaps get the supernumerary officers in the state to take command of them. By the same opportunities I desired notice to be given to the friends of the few remaining with you that they had lost their clothes and blankets & recommended that they shou'd avail themselves of any good opportunity to send to them.

We approve of your accomodating the hospital with medicines and the Maryland troops with spirits. They really deserve the whole,



and I wish we had means of transportation for much greater quantities which we have on hand & cannot convey. this article we could furnish plentifully to you & them. What is to be done for waggons I do not know. We have not now one shilling in the treasury to purchase. We have ordered an active quartermaster to go to the Westward & endeavor to purchase on credit, or to impress a hundred waggons & teams. But I really see no prospect of sending you additional supplies till the same waggons return from you which we sent on with the last. I informed you in my last letter we had ordered 2000 militia more to rendezvous at Hillsborough on the 25th of Octob. You will judge yourself whether [in the meantime] you can be more useful [by] remaining where you are with the few militia left & coming in, or by returning home where, besides again accomodating yourself [after your losses] you may also aid us in getting those men into motion, and [in] pointing out such things as are within our power and may be useful to the service. And you will act accordingly.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. NASH.

(From "*State Records of North Carolina*," XV, 48.)

Richmond, 13th Sept., 1780.<sup>156</sup>

Sir:

I have received with much concern your Excellency's information of the irregularities committed by the two troops of Cavalry sent from this State.

I cannot but wish that the result of a further investigation may prove more favourable to them; but be this as it will, it is far from our desire to stand between them and justice. It is for the good of the general service that it should be fully enquired into, and it concerns the reputation of those of them who have not swerved from Duty to be separated by trial from their guilty Brethren and not involved in an indiscriminate censure. Having received information that they wanted Clothing, twelve Horses and thirty saddles, to refit them for service, orders were given ten days ago to supply them. The materials for their cloathing are in hand; their saddles are provided, except about half a dozen. What progress is made in purchasing the deficient Horses I am not informed. I think, however, on the whole, they will be very shortly ready to obey the General's call into service. In the mean time, should your Excellency think proper, they can be ordered to Brunswick Court House, within this State.

<sup>156</sup>This letter as printed in the "*State Records of North Carolina*" is dated. August 13, 1780. In the Executive Letter Book, however, it has the date of Sept. 13, which date is, accordingly, given it above.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO ———.

(From the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, VIII, 116  
et seq.)

Richmond, Sept. 3, 1780.

Dear Sir,

The clearing the bay of the pickeroons which infested it was attended to the moment the brig Jefferson was in tolerable readiness about the 3rd or 4th week of the last month. Commod. Barron cruised up the bay as far as Tangier Island and took five of these vessels which being as many as he could man he returned about the 1st inst. received a L<sup>re</sup> from Gov. Lee desiring we would join two brigs fitting out at Baltimore & to sail the 9th inst. for clearing the bay, accordingly ordered the Jefferson & the boats Liberty & Patriot to join the Marylanders; they sailed from York for that purpose on the 12th inst. Since this I have heard nothing from them, but their instructions were to sweep the bay & it's waters clean of this trash & I have no doubt it is done & the vessels properly taken care of which have insulted your neighborhood. One difficulty, say impossibility, is to get men. The terms of the assembly were proposed. Not a single man could be engaged. We then calculated that the bounty (converted into a daily pay of three years) the cloathing allowed by law converted into a daily sum & both added to the daily pay would do, these amounting to about 10 dollars per day, a few men were raised for the cruise & on these terms aided by volunteers (mere lands men) engaged for the special purpose of going up the bay, we have been able to send the brig & boats on these two small expeditions, but the Commodore assures me that with such a crew the brig is in danger of being taken by very inferior vessels.

The Thetis is getting into readiness, the two Eastern shore gallies are to be brought over but we have no prospect of men for them. I see no remedy for them but for the Legislature to measure prices with the merchants & give what they give. We sent expresss to every county in the State about a fortnight ago to put a stop to purchase of spirits, indeed the prudence of the Commodore<sup>156a</sup> in most of the counties had stopped it before, finding the quantity so much beyond what the legislature or executive could have been supposed to have expected; our two millions are all exhausted, large debts are contracted for the horses purchased for the cavalry & waggons which were sent on with the maryland troops & our militia. These waggons which with those belonging to N. Carola. were 400 in number being all lost.<sup>157</sup> we are now obliged to get 200 more with team & geer till which we have it not in our power to send any thing to the Southern army who are suffering greatly. The loss of every tent has been a circumstance of great distress. The loss of all the small arms not less so. The new recruits are now collecting. To these will be added the delinquents & fugitives of the late militia now become 8 months men & 1000 good

<sup>156a</sup>This is as printed in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. The word should, however, be "Commissioners," probably.

<sup>157</sup>At Gabes's defeat at Camden, August 16, 1780.

western militia from the counties of Fauquier, Loudon, Frederic, Berkely, Hampshire, Shenandoah, Rockingham, Augusta, Rockbridge. This I think will be a reinforcement of about 4000 men besides the delinquents & fugitives whom I apprehend can never be got to fight, but without aid from congress they cannot be armed. Your intelligence from Philadelphia is so much more direct & punctual than mine I do not attempt to give you news from that quarter. We have nothing from the Southward since what was published in the last Week's paper. Colo. Morgan goes hence this morning for the Southern camp.

The application requisite to the duties of the office I hold is so excessive, and the execution of them after all so imperfect that I have determined to retire from it at the close of the present campaign. I wish a successor to be thought of in time who to sound Whiggism can join perseverance in business and an extensive knowledge of the various subjects he must superintend. Such a one may keep us above water even in our present moneyless situation.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. PATTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Mr Patton.

Rich<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 13th 1780.

Sir,

Colo Finnie being about to send some provision vessels to the head of Elk, I have desired him to order one into Baltimore, to the master of which I shall be obliged to you to have delivered whatever cartouch boxes you have in readiness for us as we are in immediate want of them.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL CHARLES HARRISON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1780.*)

Colo Charles Harrison,

Richmond Sep<sup>r</sup> 13. 1780—

Sir,

I have reced a Lre from Gen<sup>l</sup> Gates mentioning your desire to have y<sup>r</sup> reg<sup>t</sup> artillery filled up from the 18 m<sup>o</sup> recruits now raised. the act of assembly left to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington the officering and regimenting of these men. he has disposed of them into 8 new battalions and appointed officers to six of them: the remaining two battalions to be under colo Gibson and Brent<sup>158</sup> and their officers it is therefore not in the power of the executive to interfere in this matter. I am not without hopes that the assembly at their ensuing session will think it prudent to begin without delay on some effectual plan for providing their whole quota of troops to serve for the war, in which case I shou'd expect you wou'd come in for a more permanent reinforcement then

<sup>158</sup>William Brent, aide-de-camp to Gen. Alexander in 1777; lieutenant-colonel 1st Virginia State regiment, 14th June, 1777; colonel 2d Virginia, May, 1778, to February, 1781.

the present levies wou'd give you. This however rests altogether with the Legislature.<sup>158a</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 340.)

Richmond, Sept. 14, 1780.

Sir,—According to Genl. Gates's request I transmit to your Excellency the inclosed copy of a letter I received from him this morning. That the enemy should meditate taking possession of Portsmouth in the manner they give out does not seem probable, as Sr. Henry Clinton under the present appearances would scarcely consent to spare men from New York; & that they should think of taking possession of it at all seems equally unlikely while it is in the power of our allies to send a superior fleet into Chesapeake bay to which theirs would fall a certain prey. Nevertheless should they in this as in so many other instances, go directly contrary to obvious principles of reason, they would find us in a condition incapable of resistance for want of small arms. Our militia have been long ago disfurnished of their arms for the use of the regulars; and when we shall have armed the 3000 new levies now rendezvousing, we shall not have a single musket left in our magazine except a few which have been disabled. I must therefore entreat Congress in the most earnest manner to send all the aid in small arms which can be spared. We are also without a tent for the men who are now rendezvousing, nor does tent-stuff exist in this country. For this article therefore we must also throw ourselves on Congress. I have hopes that by this time the navigation of Chesapeake is made safe by a joint effort of this & the state of Maryland so that any necessities may be transported through that channel & up James River to this place.

Another circumstance should be previously determined on supposition that an invasion of this state should take place. A spirit of disaffection which had never been suspected, has lately discovered itself in the counties of Washington, Montgomery, Henry & Bedford, and had extended so far as that many hundreds had actually enlisted to serve his Brittanic Majesty, had taken oaths of allegiance to him, and had concerted the time of insurrection. The last of the counties above named is within 60 or 70 miles of the Barracks in Albemarle and had always been considered as a barrier to any enterprise on them from the Southward. Other counties equally relied on may fail us in the hour of trial. Should an invasion of this state take place and the progress of the enemy or other circumstances render a removal of the Convention troops necessary, to what place should they be removed. I would beg the instructions of Congress on this head & at the same time that we may at no future time be at a loss when such a measure shall be rendered necessary.

<sup>158a</sup>This is the last letter in the letter book referred to in this volume as "Executive Letter Book, 1780"—the one now in the British Museum. See preface to this volume for account of the several letter books.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. STEVENS.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 342.)

Richmond Sept 15th 1780.

Sir,—

I beg leave to trouble you with a private letter on a little matter of my own, having no acquaintance at Camp with whom I can take that Liberty. Among the Waggoners impressed for the use of your Militia were two of mine. One of these I know is safe having been on its way from hence to Hillsborough at the time of the late Engagement. The other I have reason to believe was on the field. A Waggon Master who says he was near her, informs me that Brigade quarter Master cut out one of my best Horses, & made his Escape on him, and that he saw my Waggoner loosening his own Horse to Come off, but the Enemy's Horse were then Coming up & he knows nothing further. He was a Negro man named Phill lame in one Arm and Legg. If you will do me the favor to enquire what is become of him, what Horses are saved, and to send them to me, I shall be much obliged to you. The Horses &c., were not public property, as they were only impressed & not sold. Perhaps your Certificate of what is lost may be necessary for me. The Waggon Master told that the publick money was in my waggon, a Circumstance which perhaps may aid your enquiries.

[On the 17<sup>th</sup> of Sept. Jefferson wrote to Gov. William Livingston, of New Jersey, enclosing copies of the Acts of the Virginia Assembly from the beginning of the year 1779.

For Livingston's reply to Dec. 27th, see "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 403.]

(From the Letter Book of the War Commissioner.)

Sept. 21

Market Commissary,  
Albemarle.

Sir:

I have been informed by his Excellency the Governor that you have a considerable quantity of ready made shoes & tanned leather on hand. The successive distresses of the United States at present arising from the extreme difficulty there is in furnishing shoes for the Southern Army, & the almost constant calls on this State for Shoes for that use, urge me to request of you, that you will forward all your Shoes to this place as quickly as possible.

(From "Journals of the Continental Congress," XVIII, 899.)

Wednesday, October 4, 1780.

The delegates from Virginia laid before Congress a letter of 22 September, from Governor Jefferson, which was read; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the same be referred to the Board of War, and that so much of the 20,000 pounds sterling directed by a resolution

of 2 instant, to be drawn on the honorable J. Jay and the honorable H. Laurens, as shall remain after discharging the debts due to Messrs. Tracey and Company, and advancing seven thousand pounds sterling to Mr. W. Bingham, be appropriated to the providing and transporting arms for the troops raising in Virginia for continental service.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," II, 343.)

Richmond Sept. 23. 1780.

Sir,—I yesterday forwarded a letter to you from Colo. Wood informing you of his situation. That Post has for some time past been pretty regularly supplied, and I hope will continue to be for some time to come. A Person whose punctuality can be relied on offers to contract for victualling it. If we can agree on terms, and the Assembly will strengthen our Hands sufficiently, we think to adopt that method, as the only one to be relied on with certainty. I have heard it hinted that Colo. Wood thinks of quitting that Post; I should be exceedingly sorry indeed were he to do it: he has given those under his charge the most perfect satisfaction, and at the same time used all the cautions which the nature of his charge has required. It is principally owing to his prudence and good temper that the late difficulties have been passed over almost without a murmur. Any influence which your Excellency shall think proper to use for retaining him in his present situation will promote the public Good, and have great tendency to keep up a desirable harmony with the Officers of that Corps. Our new Levies are rendezvousing very generally. Colo. Harrison was uneasy at having none of them assigned to his Corps of Artillery, who have very much distinguished themselves in the late unfortunate action, and are reduced almost to nothing. we happened to have about 400 draughts raised in the last Year and never called out and sent on duty by their County Lieutenants whom we have collected and are collecting. We think to deliver these to Colo. Harrison. They are to serve 18 months from the time of rendezvous. The numbers of Regulars and militia ordered from this State into the Southern service are about 7000. I trust we may count that 5500 will actually proceed; but we have arms for three thousand only. If therefore we do not speedily receive a supply from Congress we must countermand a proper number of these Troops. Besides this supply there should certainly be a magazine laid in here to provide against a general loss as well as daily waste. When we deliver out those now in our magazine we shall have sent 7000 stand of our own into the Southern Service in the course of this Summer: We are still more destitute of Clothing, Tents and Waggons for our Troops. The Southern Army suffers for Provision which we could plentifully supply were it possible to find means of transportation: despairing of this we directed very considerable quantities collected on the navigable waters to be sent Northwardly by the Quarter Master; this he is now doing, slowly however. Unapprised of what may be proposed by our Allies to be done with our Fleet in the course of the ensuing Winter, I would beg leave to

intimate to you that if it should appear eligible to them that it should winter in the Chesapeake they may be well supplied with Provision, taking their necessary measures in due time before hand. The waters communicating with that Bay furnish easy (and in that case) safe Transportation, and their Money will call forth what is denied to ours. I am with all possible esteem & respect your Excellency's most obedt. & most humble servt.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GATES.

(From Bergh, "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," IV, 104.)

Richmond, September 23, 1780.

Sir,—I have empowered Colonel Carrington<sup>159</sup> to have twelve boats, scows or batteaux, built at Taylor's Ferry, and to draw on me for the cost. I recommended the constructing them so as to answer the transportation of provisions along that river, as a change of position of the two armies, may render them unnecessary at Taylor's ferry; and I am thoroughly persuaded, that, unless we can find out some channel of transportation by water, no supplies of bread, of any consequence, can be sent you from this State for a long time to come. The want of wagons is a bar insuperable, at least, in any reasonable time. I have given orders to have Fry and Jefferson's map, and Henry's map<sup>160</sup> of Virginia, sought for and purchased. As soon as they can be got, I will forward them. I have also written to General Washington on the subject of wintering the French fleet in the Chesapeake. Our new levies rendezvous in large numbers. As General Washington had constituted them into eight battalions, and allotted none to Colonel Harrison, we think to deliver him about four hundred drafts of another kind, who are to serve eighteen months also. Unless Congress furnish small arms, we cannot arm more than half the men who will go from this State. The prize you mention of tents and blankets is very fortunate. It is absolutely out of our power to get these articles, to any amount, in this country, nor have we clothing for our new levies. They must, therefore, go to you clothed as militia, till we can procure and send on supplies. They will be as warm in their present cloathing at Hillsborough, as at Chesterfield Court House.

We have an agent, collecting all the beeves which can be got from the counties round about Portsmouth, to send off to you. They have there also plentiful crops of corn growing. We have instructed him to try whether means of conveying it down into the Sounds, and up some of the rivers of North Carolina, or by land to Meherrin river, and thence down Chowan, and up Roanoke, cannot be rendered practicable.

I am, with every sentiment of esteem and respect, your most obedient and most humble servant.

<sup>159</sup>Colonel Edward Carrington was the very efficient quarter-master general of the Southern department. Washington recommended him in 1799 for commander-in-chief of the American army when it seemed there might be war with France. (See Archibald Henderson's "*Washington's Southern Tour*, 1791," p. 53.)

<sup>160</sup>The first of these maps, of which there were several editions, was made by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, the father of Thomas Jefferson; the second, in 1770, by John Henry, the father of Patrick Henry.

(From "*Journals of the Continental Congress*," XVIII, 890.)

Oct. 2, 1780.

A letter of 26 September, from Governor Jefferson was read, with sundry papers enclosed;

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Committee of Intelligences.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," II, 345.)

Richmond September 26. 1780.

Sir,—

The enclosed Copy of a letter from Ld. Cornwallis to Colo. Balfour<sup>161</sup> was sent me by Govr. Rutledge: lest you should not have seen it I do myself the pleasure of transmitting it, with a letter from Genl. Harrington<sup>162</sup> to Genl. Gates giving information of some late movements of the Enemy.

I was honored yesterday with your favor of the 5th inst. on the subject of Prisoners and particularly Lt. Govr. Hamilton. You are not unapprised of the influence of this Officer with the Indians, his activity, and embittered Zeal against us; You also perhaps know how precarious is our tenure of the Illinois Country, and how critical is the situation of the new Counties on the Ohio. These circumstances determined us to detain Govr. Hamilton & Majr Hay within our Power, when we delivered up the other Prisoners. On a late representation from the People of Kentuckey by a person sent here from that County, & expressions of what they had reason to apprehend from these two Prisoners in the event of their liberation; we assured them they would not be parted with, tho we were giving up out other Prisoners. Lt. Colo. Dubuysson<sup>163</sup> aid to Baron de Kalb lately came here on his parole with an offer from Ld. Rawdon to exchange him for Hamilton. Colo. Towles<sup>164</sup> now here with a like proposition as to himself from Genl. Phillips,<sup>165</sup> very strongly urged by the Genl. These and other

<sup>161</sup>Colonel Nisbet Balfour (third son of Lord Balfour of Burleigh), one of Cornwallis's most trusted officers, at this time in command at Fort Ninety-Six. Bergh gives, on pp. 108 and 109 of Vol. IV, of his "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," the letter referred to.

<sup>162</sup>William Henry Harrington, brigadier-general of South Carolina militia.

<sup>163</sup>Lieutenant-Colonel Du Buysson was a Frenchman serving in the Continental army. He had been taken prisoner at Camden, where his chief, De Kalb, had been killed. He remained a prisoner on parole till the close of the war.

<sup>164</sup>Oliver Towles, captain 6th Virginia, 16th February, 1776; major, 15th August, 1777; taken prisoner at Germantown, 4th October, 1777.

<sup>165</sup>Major-General William Phillips had been second in command to Burgoyne and was captured with the British army at Saratoga. For a time he was in command of the "convention troops" (i. e. the British prisoners of war) at Charlottesville Virginia, but in November 1779 was permitted to go to New York, where he resided on parole till his exchange, the latter part of 1780, for General Benjamin Lincoln, taken prisoner at Charleston. Sent to Virginia in aid of Arnold in the spring of 1781, he took command of the British troops in this State, with Arnold as second in command, and marched into the interior as far as Petersburg, where he died of fever, though rumor had it at the time—such was the destation in which Arnold was held—that he was poisoned by his lieutenant. He is buried in Blandford Cemetery.



overtures do not lessen our opinion of the importance of retaining him; and they have been and will uniformly be rejected. Should the settlement indeed of a Cartel become impracticable without the consent of the States to submit their separate Prisoners to its obligation, we will give up these two Prisoners, as we would anything rather than be an obstacle to a general good; But no other circumstances would I believe extract them from us. These two gentlemen with a Lt. Colo. Elligood are the only separate Prisoners we have retained, & the last only on his own request, & not because we set any store by him. There is indeed a Lt. Governor Rocheblawe<sup>166</sup> of Kaskaskie who has broken his parole & gone to N. York, whom we must shortly trouble your Excellency to demand for us as soon as we can forward to you the proper documents. Since the forty Prisoners sent to Winchester as mentioned in my letter of the 9th ult. about 150 more have been sent thither, some of them taken by us at sea, others sent on by Genl. Gates.

The exposed and weak state of our western settlements and the danger to which they are subject from the Northern Indians acting under the influence of the British Post at Detroit, render it necessary for us to keep from five to eight hundred men on duty for their defence. This is a great and perpetual expense: Could that post be reduced and retained it would cover all the States to the South-East of it. We have long meditated the attempt under the direction of Colo Clarke, but the expense would be so great that whenever we have wished to take it up the circumstance has obliged us to decline it; two different estimates make it amount to two Millions of Pounds, present Money. We could furnish the Men, provisions and I believe every necessary except Powder; had we the Money, or could the demands from us be so far supplied from other quarters as to leave it in our Power to apply such a Sum to that purpose and when once done it would save annual expenditures to a great amount. When I speak of furnishing the men, I mean they should be Militia: such being the popularity of Colo Clarke & the confidence of the western people in him that he could raise the requisite number at any time. We therefore beg leave to refer this matter to yourself to determine whether such an enterprise would not be for the general good, & if you think it would, to authorize it at the general expense; this is become the more reasonable if as I am informed the ratification of the Confederation has been rested on our cession of a part of our Western Claims a cession which (speaking my private opinion only) I verily believe will be agreed to if the Quantity demanded be not unreasonably great. Should this proposition be approved it should be immediately made known to us as the season is now coming on at which some of the preparations must be made. The time of execution I think should be at the breaking up of the Ice in the Wabash & before the Lakes open. The interval I am told is considerable.

<sup>166</sup>This was Phillippe de Rastel, Chevalier de Rocheblawe, the commandant at Kaskaskia when it was captured by Clark—a very bitter enemy of the Americans.

(From "*Journals of the Continental Congress*," XVIII, 912.)

October 9, 1780.

A letter, of 27 September, from Governor Jefferson was read, accompanied with copies of the acts of the Virginia Assembly, from the beginning of the year, 1779.

October 11, 1780.

On motion of Mr. Madison, seconded by Mr. Bland.

*Ordered*, That the letter, of 27 September, from Governor Jefferson with the copies of the acts of the legislature of Virginia enclosed therewith, be referred to the Board of Treasury, to enable them to ascertain and insert in the bills to be emitted by the said State, pursuant to the resolutions of Congress, of the 18 of March last, the time of the passing of the act adopting the said resolution.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOSEPH CROCKETT.

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 458.)

Richmond Sept<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1780.

Sir,

I suppose Mr Baker<sup>167</sup> must by this time be in readiness to do his part towards moving your battalion to the Westward. as soon as he is so, you will please to proceed with them. let your pay rolls be made up to the day of your march, as so far they will be chargeable to the continent. The inclos'd advice of council pointing out your destination & that of the quotas of militia call'd from the Western counties, with Gen<sup>l</sup> Lewis's letter<sup>168</sup> also inclos'd, containing his sentiments as to the best manner of executing the intention of the Executive, renders it unnecessary for me to take up that part of the subject. You know that our dependance is on you to direct the march & route of those Militia, and their mode of proceeding to establish themselves. I have further to add, that as soon as you have an opportunity you are to give notice to Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke of your movements, numbers of regulars, success in collecting the militia, progress in making your establishments & general prospects, and afterwards from time to time whenever opportunities occur to give him like information. The purpose of this is to put it in his power to leave you to pursue the plan chalked out by the Executive, or to take up any other, or call you on any different enterprize which he shall think better, our intention being to submit the disposal of this force perfectly to the will of Col<sup>o</sup> Clark whose knowledge of the Country to be defended, of its weaknesses & resources, enables him to form the best plans for preserving it under its actual circumstances, and whom we do not mean to tram-

<sup>167</sup>Mr. Baker (Mr. Evan Baker) is called by Colonel William Preston, in a letter written by him July 12, 1780, and printed in Kellogg's "*Frontier Retreat on the Upper Ohio*," pp. 215 & 216, commissary and quarter-master for the Western Department. On pp. 193 & 194 of the same book is an interesting note in reference to him.

<sup>168</sup>This letter, which is most interesting, is printed in Kellogg's "*Frontier Retreat on the Upper Ohio*," pp. 243, 244.

mel in the execution of his plans by any positive instructions to you. those therefore which have been & now are given, you are only to pursue till you receive contrary directions from him. I wish you to be speedy in your departure & subsequent movements, & health and success in you undertakings & am with great esteem Sir,

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

*(From the Draper Papers in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library, 50J61.)*

Richmond Sep<sup>r</sup> 29. 1780.

Sir

I sincerely congratulate you on your late Victory over the Shawanese and am sorry a want of Provisions prevented its being improved as far as it was capable of improvement. I hope those Savages will be taught to fear, since they cannot be taught to keep faith. Crocketts reinforcement will perhaps enable you with the occasional aids of Volunteers to give them so little rest as to induce them to remove beyond our mutual interference: This delay has been hitherto occasioned by those wants of Cloathing and Money which now encrease on us daily and cramp and suppress every effort. M<sup>r</sup> Randolph's stay here has given him an Opportunity of becoming so fully acquainted with our situation that I need not put it on Paper. The loss of Charles Town and defeat of Gen<sup>l</sup> Gates left us a powerful enemy in the South without an Army to oppose them. We had to raise, clothe, equip and subsist an Army without a Shilling of Money. You will judge from this whether our difficulties in the Eastern quarter are far short of yours in the Western. I have written to Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington on the subject of an attempt against Detroit, and asked from him nothing more than such a relief from other continental calls as will enable us to spare so much money as may be necessary for that enterprise and to have this considered as a Continental Expence. I have ventured to assure him that with the Regulars you will have, you can raise Volunteers enough to reduce the place, and that we can furnish every article, except Powder, if they will only leave us at liberty to apply our Money for that purpose. While I wait for his answer, Capt Moore is authorised to purchase all the flour he can in the Vicinities of Fort Pitt, for which purpose we furnish him with £10000. and an instrument of assurance to the Sellers that they shall be paid as soon as the approaching Session of Assembly shall have had time to provide supplies. We wished he would have undertaken the office of Commissary for you to have continued in the neighbourhood of Pittsburg and supplied you regularly from thence, calling on us for Money As he is not disposed to do it I am to desire you will appoint from time to time such person as you can rely on notifying always the appointment to us. The Accounts of expences incurred in your expedition must by law be settled with the Auditors here. Cap<sup>t</sup>. Moore seems to think wild Meat may be got in sufficient quantity with you if Money is furnished. If this be the case whatever sum it shall be in our power to spare you, will go much further towards your support in this way than if invested in

Cattle on this side the Alleghaney and driven to you. If you will point out the mode and measure of supplies for your purposes we will endeavor to comply with them as far as we shall be able.<sup>169</sup>

(From the *Virginia Gazette*, October 11, 1780.)

In COUNCIL, Sept. 30, 1780

The Board having received information that from a miscarriage of their instructions to the commissioners of the provision law in several counties or from other causes the said commissioners in sundry counties still continue to take spirits under authority of their commission advise that notice be given by a publication hereof in the gazette to discontinue the same, and also that the said commissioners forbear to take rye in any counties, except those whose provisions were directed to be stored at the barracks in Albemarle, and that in those also it be forborne whenever the Commanding officer at the said post shall notify the Commissioners that his post is not in want.

ARCHIBALD BLAIR, C. C.

(From the *War Commissioner*, George Muter.)

To———Kemp Eq  
Williamsburg.

Oct. 1

The stove at the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg will be wanted for the House of Delegates. It is his Excellencys wish, that you would send it up by the first convenient opportunity.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE HON. THOMAS BURKE.

(From "*State Records of North Carolina*," XV, 370.)

Richmond, Oct. 2nd, 1780.

Sir:

I am sorry to be obliged to inform you that it is out of our power to have payment made of Mr. Clay's draught for \$225,000. Our Treasury is at present absolutely exhausted, and no prospect of its being replenished till the Assembly shall have met and have had time to provide supplies. I hope this will reach you in time to prevent the additional disappointment which might arise from your setting out on your journey previous to your receipt of this.

(From "*Journals of the Continental Congress*," XVIII, 911.)

October 9, 1780.

A letter of 3, from Governor Jefferson was read, with sundry papers enclosed.

<sup>169</sup>This important letter is not included in the "Illinois Historical Collections," Vol. VIII—the "George Rogers Clark Papers, 1771-1781."

The Captain Moore referred to in it was a man of considerable importance. He later served in the Kentucky General Assembly, was a member of the commission to allot the land given by the State of Virginia to Clark's officers and men, and was Humphrey Marshall's second in his duel with Henry Clay. (See Kellogg, *op. cit.*, 310.)



GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GATES.

(From Bergh, "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," IV, 112.)

Richmond, October 4, 1780.

Sir,—My letter of September 23d. answered your favors received before that date, and the present serves to acknowledge the receipt of those of September 24th and 27th. I retain in mind, and recur, almost daily, to your requisitions of August; we have, as yet, no prospect of more than one hundred tents. Flour is ordered to be manufactured, as soon as the season will render it safe; out of which, I trust, we can furnish not only your requisition of August, but that of Congress of September 11th. The corn you desire, we could furnish when the new crops come in, fully, if water transportation can be found; if not, we shall be able only to send you what lies convenient to the southern boundary, in which neighborhood the crops have been much abridged by a flood in Roanoke. We have no rice. Rum and other spirits we can furnish to a greater amount than you require, as soon as our wagons are in readiness, and shall be glad to commute into that article some other which we have not, particularly sugar, coffee and salt. The vinegar is provided. Colonel Finnie promised to furnish to Colonel Muter, a list of the spades, hoes, &c., which could be furnished from the Continental Stores. This list has never yet come to hand. It is believed, the Continental stores here will fall little short of your requisition, except in the article of axes, which our shops are proceeding on. Your information of September 24th, as to the quality of the axes, has been notified to the workmen, and will, I hope, have a proper effect on those made hereafter. Application has been made to the Courts, to have the bridges put in proper state, which they have promised to do. We are endeavoring again to collect wagons. About twenty are nearly finished at this place. We employed, about three weeks ago, agents to purchase, in the western counties, a hundred wagons and teams. Till these can be got, it will be impossible to furnish anything from this place. I am exceedingly pleased to hear of your regulation for stopping our wagons at Roanoke. This will put it in our power to repair and replace them, to calculate their returns, provide loads, and will be a great encouragement to increase their number, if possible, as their departure hence will no longer produce the idea of a final adieu to them.

Colonel Senf<sup>170</sup> arrived here the evening before the last. He was employed yesterday and to-day, in copying some actual and accurate surveys, which we had had made of the country round about Portsmouth, as far as Cape Henry to the eastward, Nansemond river to the westward, the Dismal Swamp to the southward, and northwardly, the line of country from Portsmouth by Hampton and York, to Williamsburg, and including the vicinities of these three last posts. This will leave him nothing to do, but to take drawings of particular

<sup>170</sup>Col. Christian Senf was one of the foreign officers (probably a Dane) assisting the Americans. He was an expert military engineer. His commission was from the State of Virginia. There are in the State Archives several letters written by him.

places, and the soundings of such waters as he thinks material. He will proceed on this business to-morrow, with a letter to General Nelson, and powers to call for the attendance of a proper vessel.

I suppose, that your drafts in favor of the quarter-master, if attended with sixty days' grace, may be complied with to a certain amount. We will certainly use our best endeavors to answer them. I have only to desire that they may be made payable to the quarter-master alone, and not to the bearer. This is to prevent the mortification of seeing an unapprised individual taken in by an assignment of them, as if they were *ready money*. Your letter to Colonel Finnie will go to Williamsburg immediately. Those to Congress, with a copy of the papers enclosed to me, went yesterday by express. I will take order as to the bacon you mention. I fear there is little of it, and that not capable of being long kept. You are surely not uninformed, that Congress required the greater part of this article to be sent northward, which has been done. I hope by this time, you receive supplies of beeves from our commissary, Mr. Eaton, who was sent three weeks or a month ago to exhaust of that article the counties below, and in the neighborhood of Portsmouth; and from thence, was to proceed to the other counties, in order, as they stood exposed to an enemy.

The arrival of the French West India fleet (which, though not authentically communicated, seems supported by so many concurring accounts from individuals, as to leave scarcely room for doubt), will, I hope, prevent the enemy from carrying into effect the embarkation they had certainly intended from New York, though they are strengthened by the arrival of Admiral Rodney at that place, with twelve sail of the line and four frigates, as announced by General Washington to Congress, on the 19th ultimo. The accounts of the additional French fleet are varied, from sixteen to nineteen ships of the line, besides frigates. The number of the latter has never been mentioned. The extracts of letters, which you will see in our paper of this day, are from General Washington, President Huntington and our Delegates in Congress to me. That from Bladensburg is from a particular acquaintance of mine, whose credit cannot be doubted. The distress we are experiencing from want of leather to make shoes, <sup>171</sup> is great. I am

<sup>171</sup>As showing the difficulties in furnishing troops with equipment and the efforts that were being made to raise men to send to the South, the following communication from General Robert Lawson (brigadier-general of Virginia militia) is taken from the *Virginia Gazette* for October 11, 1780:

Prince Edward, October 1, 1780.

That the volunteer undertaking should not want any encouragement that it was in the power of his Excellency the Governour and the Honorable Council to hold out, the board have been pleased to come to the following determination, to wit:

IN COUNCIL, September 21, 1780

The board advise the Governour to give notice to the Gentlemen whose propositions for raising volunteers have been before accepted, that the counties in which they raise such volunteers shall be allowed a credit for so many of the said volunteers as shall go from each county, out of the late call for militia to go to *Carolina*, and the individuals going, and actually performing this duty, shall be entitled to have it considered as their tour of duty whenever the militia division, of which they happen to be, shall be called into service. But this is not to be considered as admitting any delinquent or deserter of the militia ordered to *Carolina* under the

sure you have thought of preventing it in future, by the appointment of a commissary of hides, or some other good regulation for saving and tanning the hides, which the consumption of your army will afford.

(From the "Journals of the Continental Congress," XVIII, 920.)

October 13, 1780.

A letter, of 8, from Governor Jefferson, with Sundry papers enclosed, was read.—

(From "Journals of the Continental Congress," XVIII, 957.)

October 21, 1780.

A letter, of 10, from Governor Jefferson was read; whereupon, *Resolved*, That the reasons assigned by his excellency Governor Jefferson for inviting Oconostota and a few other principal warriors of the Cherokee nation to visit Congress and the Commander in Chief and Army are wise and prudent, and that Governor Jefferson's letter with the papers enclosed, be referred to the Board of War, who are directed to take order for the accomodation of the said chiefs on their arrival.—

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. DANIEL BRODHEAD.

(From "Pennsylvania Archives," VIII, 641.)

Richmond, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1780\*

Sir,

I received some time ago a Letter from the board of war desiring that provisions might be furnished for the subsistence of the garrison at Fort Pitt, I immediately informed them that our Treasury was utterly without money and could not be replenished till the meeting

late act of Assembly, entitled "An act to embody militia for the relief of *South Carolina*, and for other purposes" to enter into the corps of Volunteers, nor to be excused from the penalties of the said act by the services of the Volunteers.

The Gentlemen who have entered into the volunteer cavalry, and have it not in their power to furnish themselves with caps, &c. will be pleased to have their leather carried to *Richmond*, and they will obtain of Colonel *Muter* an order to have it made up into the necessary accoutrements; and those who choose it may receive pay from the country for the leather so furnished.

I must entreat those Gentlemen whose publick spirit has led them to recruit Volunteers, to make returns to me by the 15th instant, of the numbers so recruited, that I may take the necessary measures for calling them to the place of rendezvous, hereafter to be appointed, there to equip them, and put them into such training as time and circumstances may admit.

ROBERT LAWSON.

\*There is probably an error in this date in taking "the Copy" as it is referred to by C. B. under date of the 8th. [This note was made by the editor of the "Pennsylvania Archives," Samuel Hazard, but the letter of C. B. (Col. Brodhead) to which he refers—written to President Reed, of Pennsylvania—with which was sent "the Copy" of Jefferson's letter to Brodhead, which "copy" is the source of the text given above, was dated December 8th—not October 8th. Accordingly the date as printed (Oct. 12th) may be correct.



of assembly, that the line which had been agreed to by the assembly as a boundary between us and Pennsylvania had thrown into that State, nearly the whole settlement in the vicinity of Fort Pitt and being not yet Ascertained, had left it difficult and improper for us to put in force our Provision Law, which might indeed Produce supplies to the Posts but would Probably give umbrage to the state of Pennsylvania, I am therefore able to do nothing more on this head, but to look forwards to the approaching Session of Assembly for the means of Procuring by Purchase supplies for your Post, & to the Ratification of the boundary by Pennsylvania, and its actual Extension to ascertain the ground on which we may exercise the Compulsory measures of our Law on failure of Purchases. Indeed our inability to aid you may be well known by the Extreme sufferings to which our Posts on the Ohio have been exposed & of which you cannot be uninformed, as soon as any Powers shall be put into my hands to procure either by volunteer or Compulsory means, any supplies for you, you may be assured they shall be exercised.

*Directed,*

Colonel Daniel Brodhead, Commander of Fort Pitt.

P. S. Since writing the above Col<sup>o</sup> Campbell informs me, that the only obstacle to your availing yourself of the Powers given you by the State of Pennsylvania for Procuring Provisions is an apprehension that we might entertain a Jealousy at the exercise of such Power, I assure you that no such apprehension need be Entertained. The inhabitants south of Masons & Dixons line Continued are decidedly in Virginia, over these therefore we cannot authorize you to Exercise any Power derived from the other Government, I make no doubt but you can nearly Judge whereabouts the north line will Run I understand it will but a little to Eastward of the Ohio hence you may Act even there also with Tolerable Certainty.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 459.)

Richmond October 12, 1780

*Sir*

We have this moment learnt that there is in possession of Col<sup>o</sup> Gibson at Fort Pitt or his Pay-master a quantity of Clothing fit for Soldiers: As Maj<sup>r</sup> Slaughter's Corps we know is in want, and yours may possibly be I have given Maj<sup>r</sup> Moore an Order to receive it, and deliver it to your order

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON,  
PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," II, 348.)

Richmond Oct. 14. 1780.

*Sir,—*

At the desire of Majr. Genl. Gates I transmit to you the inclosed papers which he put under cover to me. He complains of the arrival



of our troops without clothes, tents, or arms at Hillsborough: and desires they may not be sent on at all unless completely equipped with every necessary. This would indeed put an end to the marching a single man there. They go clothed as militia. Few of them carry blankets. Nor shall we be able to furnish tents or arms for more than half of them. However they will go on in hopes of supplies from Congress.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THOMAS BURKE.

(From "*State Records of North Carolina*," XV, 371.)

Richmond, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1780.

Sir:

Your favour of the 5th, covering a draught of Mr. Clay's for \$106,775, came safely to hand last night. I am sorry that Mr. Clay adopted this method of negotiating money claims on our Treasury, which is not, and I fear will not again be, in a condition to answer his draughts with any kind of punctuality which might justify his drawing and negotiating in the mercantile way. In my letter to you of the 2nd Inst., acknowledging the receipt of the draught for 225,000 D., I informed you of the exhausted state of our treasury. There is yet no symptom of replenishment. I really, therefore, do not know what to recommend to you. If you find it better to retain those bills on us, we expect to pay money to or for Mr. Clay, and shall with great cheerfulness do it through you; but I am bound at the same time to inform you that we are so far from being in arrears on the general requisitions of Congress for Money (in which case depreciation might perhaps be chargeable to us) that we have overpaid their requisitions till the close of the present year upwards of six millions of dollars. Mr. Clay's draught from Congress is supererogation. Yet we do not mean to count or weigh our contributions by any standard but that of our abilities.

If you find you can better secure yourself against depreciation by recalling these draughts, they will be delivered to your order, and in the meantime safely kept.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GATES.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," II, 348.)

Richmond Oct 15. 1780.

Sir,—I am rendered not a little anxious by the Paragraph of yours of the 7th Inst., wherein you say "it is near a month since I received any Letter from your Excellency; indeed the receipt of most that I have wrote to you remain unacknowledged." You ought within that time to have received my Letter of September 3d. written immediately on my return to this place after a fortnights Absence.—That of September 11th acknowledging the receipt of yours which covered Draughts for Money; that of Sept. 23d on the Subject of Batteaux at Taylor's Ferry, Waggon, Maps of Virginia, wintering the French Fleet in Chesapeake, our new levies, and Provisions from our lower Counties—and

that of [Oct. 4] in Answer to yours of Sept 24th. and 27th. I begin to apprehend Treachery in some part of our Chain of Expresses, and beg the favor of you in your next to mention whether any and which of these Letters have not come to hand.

This acknowledges the receipt of yours of Sept. 28. and Oct. 3, 5, and 7th. The first of these was delivered four or five days ago by Capt. Drew.<sup>172</sup> He will be permitted to return as you desire, as we would fulfil your wishes in every point in our power, as well as indulge the Ardor of a good Officer. Our militia from the Western Counties are now on their march to join you. They are fond of the kind of Service in which Colo Morgan is generally engaged, and are made very happy by being informed you intend to put them under him. Such as pass by this place take Muskets in their hands. Those from the Southern Counties beyond the Blue Ridge were advised to carry their Rifles. For those who carry neither Rifles nor Muskets, as well as for our 18 months' Men we shall send on Arms as soon as Waggon can be procured. In the meantime I had hoped that there were Arms for those who should first arrive at Hillsborough, as by Genl. Stevens Return dated at his departure thence there were somewhere between 5 and 800 muskets (I speak from memory not having present Access to the Return) belonging to this State either in the hands of the new Militia who were there or stored. Capt Fauntleroy<sup>173</sup> of the Cavalry, gives me hopes he shall immediately forward a very considerable Supply of Accoutrements for White's and Washington's cavalry. He told me yesterday he had received 113 Horses for that Service from us. Besides those, he had rejected sixty odd after we had purchased them, at £3000 apiece. Nelson's two troops were returned to me deficient only 12 Horses, since which 10 have [been] sent to him by Lt Armstead.<sup>174</sup> I am not a little disappointed therefore in the Number of Cavalry fit for Duty as mentioned in the Letter you enclosed me. Your request as stated in your letter of the 7th that we will send no men into the field, or even to your camp, that are not well furnished with Shoes, Blankets, and every necessary for immediate service would amount to a stoppage of every man; as we have it not in our power to furnish them with real necessities completely. I hope they will be all shod. What proportion will have Blankets I cannot say: we purchase every one which can be found out, and now I begin to have a prospect of furnishing about half of them with Tents as soon as they can be made, and forwarded.

<sup>172</sup>According to Heitman's "Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army, 1775-1783," Drew was only a lieutenant at that time. The entry in Heitman is:

"Drew, John (Va.). was an Ensign and 2d Lieutenant 1st Virginia in 1777; Lieutenant 1st Continental Artillery—February, 1781; wounded at Eutaw Springs, 8th September, 1781, and served to—,"

<sup>173</sup>This was probably Moore Fauntleroy, who was, however, a major at that time. Heitman's entry in reference to him is as follows:

"Fauntleroy, Moore (Va.). Ensign 5th Virginia, 13th February, 1776; 2d Lieutenant, 10th September, 1776; Captain 4th Continental Dragoons, 21st January, 1777; taken prisoner at Germantown 4th October, 1777; Major, 1st August, 1779, and served to—; was in service March, 1780."

<sup>174</sup>This was Lieutenant William Armistead of the 1st Continental Dragoons. He became captain in 1782.

As to provisions, our Agent Eaton, of whom I before wrote, informs me in a Letter of the 5th inst he shall immediately get Supplies of Beef into motion and shall send some corn by a circuitous Navigation. But till we receive our Waggon from the Western Country, I cannot hope to aid you in Bread. I expect daily to see Waggon coming in to us. The Militia were ordered to rendezvous at Hillsborough, expecting they would thence be ordered by you into service. I send you herewith a copy of Henry's map of Virginia. It is a mere *cento* of blunders. It may serve to give you a general idea of the courses of rivers & positions of counties. We are endeavoring to get you a copy of Fry & Jefferson's; but they are now very scarce. I also enclose you some newspapers in which you will find a detail of Arnold's apostasy & villany. \* \* \*

[In Bergh's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," Vol. IV, on p. 119, the rest of this letter is given, as follows:]

I am, with all sentiments of sincere respect and esteem, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant.

P. S. Just as I was closing my letter, yours of the 9th instant was put into my hands. I enclose, by this express, a power to Mr. Lambe, quartermaster, to impress for a month, ten wagons from each of the counties of Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Charlotte, and Halifax, and direct him to take your orders, whether they shall go first to you, or come here. If the latter, we can load them with arms and spirits. Before their month is out, I hope the hundred wagons from the westward will have come in. We will otherwise provide a relief for these. I am perfectly astonished at your not having yet received my letters before mentioned. I send you a copy of that of the 4th of October, as being most material. I learn from one of General Muhlenburg's family, that five wagons have set out from hence, with three hundred stand of arms, &c. However, the General writes to you himself.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From Bergh, "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," IV, 120.)

Richmond, October 22, 1780.

Sir,—I have this morning received certain information of the arrival of a hostile fleet in our bay,<sup>179a</sup> of about sixty sail. The debarkation of some light horse, in the neighborhood of Portsmouth, seems to indicate that as the first scene of action. We are endeavoring to collect as large a body to oppose them as we can arm; this will

<sup>179a</sup>The following is the account taken from the *Virginia Gazette* for October 25, 1780:

"On the 20th instant arrived in Chesapeake bay a British Fleet of 54 Ships, 25 of which are large, the residue small. On the 23d they landed 1000 infantry and 100 horse at Newport News, who immediately proceeded to Hampton of which they took possession. Part of them are gone into Elizabeth river, but whether they have effected any landing there is not certainty known. It is supposed the whole land force is 5000 men commanded by General Leslie, and the fleet is said to be commanded by Commodore Rodney, son of the Admiral of the same name. The people in the neighbourhood of the invasion, turn out with great alacrity and spirit and trust they will be immediately supported by their upper breathren."



be lamentably inadequate, if the enemy be in any force. It is mortifying to suppose that a people, able and zealous to contend with their enemy, should be reduced to fold their arms for want of the means of defence. Yet no resources, that we know of, insure us against this event. It has become necessary to divert to this new object a considerable part of the aids we had destined for General Gates. We are still, however, sensible of the necessity of supporting him, and have left that part of the country nearest him uncalled on, at present, that they may reinforce him as soon as arms can be received. We have called to the command of our forces Generals Weeden and Muhlenburg, of the line, and Nelson and Stevens of the militia. You will be pleased to make to this such additions as you may think proper. As to the aids of men, I ask for none, knowing that if the late detachment of the enemy shall have left it safe for you to spare aids of that kind, you will not await my application. Of the troops we shall raise, there is not a single man who ever saw the face of an enemy. Whether the Convention troops will be removed or not, is yet undetermined.

This must depend on the force of the enemy, and the aspect of their movements.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's most obedient humble servant.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON,  
PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 351.*)

In Council Oct. 22d. 1780.

Sir,—The inclosed letters which came to hand this morning will inform your Excellency that a Fleet of the Enemy has arrived in our Bay; and that a Debarkation of some light Horse in the Neighbourhood of Portsmouth seems to indicate that as their first Scene of Action. We are endeavouring to collect a Body to oppose them as numerous as the Arms we have will admit. We are obliged of Consequence to divert to this New Object a considerable Part of the Aids we destined for Genl. Gates. We shall not however by any means consider his reinforcement as no longer interesting, but clearly see the Necessity of supporting him with our utmost abilities. We have therefore left part of our country which is more convenient to him uncalled on at present, which with the proportion of Regulars, Volunteers, and Militia already with him or not meant to be diverted will I hope be a seasonable aid. The want of Arms prevents every hope of effectual Opposition. I have perfect Confidence in Congress that this want will be suffered to fetter us not a moment after they can supply it. Generals Weeden and Muhlenburg of the line, and Nelson and Stevens of the Militia are called into Command. Congress will please to consider whether these can be aided by any other Officer of higher Rank and of approved Abilities and Trust. We have come to no determination on the subject of the Convention Troops. Should the Enemy be in force, every circumstance will render their Removal essential. This shall in that case be done as directed by Congress and due notice given to them as well as to Governor Lee.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT  
OF FREDERICK COUNTY.

(From the Virginia State Archives.)

In Council October 22d 1780.

Sir

Certain information being received that a considerable Fleet of the Enemy has arrived within our Capes, and have begun their debarkation, I have thought proper with advice of the Council of State to require one fourth of the Militia of your County to repair immediately to Richmond armed & accoutred the best manner possible, Let every man bring his own Blanket—it is not necessary that any Field Officer should come with them, as field & General Officers will be provided by the Executive. they are to [be] furnished with provisions by impressing it as directed by the provision Law, giving to the persons from whom they take it, a Certificate of the Article, Price & Purpose & transmitting to me a List of all such Certificates. I am to request that you lose not a Moment Time in the executing of these Orders.<sup>175</sup>

I am with great Respect Sir

Yo. Mo. Obed<sup>t</sup> hble Servt.

Th: Jefferson

[Endorsed:] On Public Service

To the County Lieutenant of Frederick.

[Endorsed further:]

Governor Jefferson

C<sup>t</sup> L<sup>t</sup>

I do not recollect any thing about this

J. Smith.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 353.)

Richmond Octr. 25. 1780.

Sir,—I do myself the pleasure of handing on the dispatches from General Gates accompanying this.

Since my last informing of you of the appearance of an enemy's fleet they have landed 800 men in the neighbourhood of Portsmouth and some more on the bay side of Princess Anne County. On the 23d. in the morning they landed 1000 infantry and 100 cavalry at Newport's News who immediately took possession of Hampton. The horse were proceeding up the road at the time of our last intelligence. The residue of their force remains still on board. The unarmed state of the people leaves it not in our power to say precisely when one hundred horse will be stopped. The few who have arms have turned

<sup>175</sup>This, of course, is a form letter copy of which was sent to all the counties. The clerk copying it has made several mistakes; these Jefferson did not have time to correct. The signature is Jefferson's. How it happened to find its way back to Richmond does not appear, nor the bearing of the sentence written on the back: "I do not recollect any thing about this."

out with the greatest alacrity, but they are not of a nature proper to oppose horse. Such a corps as Major Lee's would now be of infinite value to us. Our cartridge paper had been nearly exhausted by the Southern army, and 2000 Cartouch boxes which we had bought in Baltimore we have reason to believe were on their way down the bay when the enemy came in and have probably fallen into their hands. The want of even of these small articles will be of great disadvantage. The spirit which has shown itself among the people on this occasion has given me the greatest pleasure, but I must notwithstanding assure you Sir that if great supplies of arms are not immediately sent on there is no event which may not be expected.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," II, 354.)

Richmond October 25. 1780.

Sir,—I take the liberty of inclosing to you Letters from Gov. Hamilton for New York. On some representations received by Colo Towles that an indulgence to Governor Hamilton <sup>176</sup> and his companions to go to New York on parole would produce the happiest effect on the situation of our officers in Long Island we have given him, Majr Hay & some of the same Party at Winchester leave to go there on Parole: The two former go by water, the latter by Land.

By this express I hand on from Genl Gates to Congress intelligence of the capture of Augusta in Georgia with considerable quantities of goods; and information which carries a fair appearance of the taking of George Town in So Carolina by a party of ours, and that an army of 6000 French or Spaniards had landed at Sunbury. This is the more credited as Cornwallis retreated from Charlotte on the 12th inst with great marks of precipitation. \* \* \*

[Bergh, Vol. IV, p. 123, has the continuation of this letter, which is as follows:]

Since my last to you, informing you of an enemy's fleet, they have landed eight hundred men in the neighborhood of Portsmouth, and some more on the bay side of Princess Anne. One thousand infantry landed at New-ports-news, on the morning of the 23d, and immediately took possession of Hampton. The horse were proceeding up the road. Such a corps as Major Lee's would be of infinite service to us. Next to a naval force, horse seems to be most capable of protecting a country so intersected by waters.

I am, with the most sincere esteem, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant.

<sup>176</sup>See "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 378, for Hamilton's parole. On the same page is printed the letter of Major [sic] O. Towles to Jefferson referred to above.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO WILLIAM FRAZER.

(From Vol. 3, Navy Papers, Virginia State Archives.)

Octob. 26, 1780.

Sir,

You are at liberty to make use of the cannon & other public Stores for defence of the branches of York River. Any powder which may be necessary & can be procured from private hands, should be paid for by the publick on your certificates. Commissaries, Commissioners of the provision Law & others having public provisions in their hands shall be justified in delivering a sufficient quantity for the Subsistence of those aiding you in this defence so long as they shall be on that Service.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES WOOD.

(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)

October 26, 1780.

Sir,

The enemy envading us appearing now to be in Force, the Executive have determined that the Convention troops be removed without delay. You will therefore take immediate measures for their removal to Fort Frederic as directed by the board of war

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 355.)

Richmond Oct. 26th 1780.

Sir,—The executive of this State think it expedient and necessary that under our present circumstances the prisoners of war under the convention of Saratoga, be removed from their present situation. Many circumstances have led to this necessity. It will be utterly impracticable as long as they remain with us to prevent the hostile army now in this state from being reinforced by numerous desertions from this corps and this expectation may be one among the probable causes of this movement of the enemy. Should moreover a rescue of them be attempted the extensive disaffection which has been lately discovered, and almost total want of arms in the hands of our good people render the success of such an enterprize by no means desparate. The fear of this and of other dangerous convulsions to which such an attempt would expose us, diverts the attention of a very considerable part of our militia from an opposition to the invading enemy. An order has therefore been this day issued to Colo Wood to take immediate measures for their removal, and every aid has been and will be given him for transporting, guarding and subsisting them on the road which our powers can accomplish. Notice hereof is sent by the present conveyance to his Excellency Govr. Lee, on whose part I doubt not necessary preparations for their reception will be made.<sup>177</sup>

<sup>177</sup>The same letter was sent also to General Washington.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES  
IN CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 356.)

Richmond Octo. 27. 1780.

Gentlemen,—I must beg the favor of you to solicit the sending on to us immediately a good supply of Cartridge Paper & Cartouch Boxes. Nearly the whole of the former articles which we had bought at Alexandria, Baltimore &c. and what the Board of War sent from Philadelphia has been made up and forwarded to the Southern Army: there remains now but a few Reams to make up. I fear we have lost 2,000 cartouch Boxes on the Bay which we had made at Baltimore. Our distress for these is also very great. Muskets being really useless without them, I must entreat the greatest dispatch in forwarding these Articles.

A very dangerous Insurrection in Pittsylvania was prevented a few days ago by being discovered three days before it was to take place. The Ringleaders were seized in their Beds.—This dangerous fire is only smothered: When it will break out seems to depend altogether on events. It extends from Montgomery County along our southern boundary to Pittsylvania & Eastward as far as James River: Indeed some suspicions have been raised of its having crept as far as Culpeper. The rest of the state turns out with a spirit and alacrity which made me perfectly happy. If they had arms there is no effort either of public or private Enemies in this state which would give any apprehensions. Our whole arms are or will be in the hands of the force now assembling. Were any disaster to befall these, we have no other resource but a few scattered Squirrel Guns, Rifles &c. in the Hands of the western People.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GATES.

(From Bergh's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," IV, 124-126.)

Richmond, October 28, 1780.

Sir,—Your letters of the 14th, 20th and 21st have come to hand, and your despatches to Congress have been regularly forwarded. I shall attend to the caveat against Mr. Ochiltree's bill. Your letter to Colonel Senf remains still in my hands, as it did not come till the enemy had taken possession of the ground, on which I knew him to have been, and I have since no certain information where a letter might surely find him. My proposition as to your bills in favor of the quarter-master, referred to yours of September 27th. I have notified to the Continental quarter-master, your advance of nine hundred dollars to Cooper. As yet, we have received no wagons. I wish Mr. Lambe may have supplied you. Should those from the western quarter not come in, we will authorize him or some other, to procure a relief, in time, for those first impressed. We are upon the eve of a new arrangement as to our commissary's and quartermaster's departments, as the want of money, introducing its substitute force, requires the establishment of a different kind of system.



Since my first information to you of the arrival of an enemy, they have landed about eight hundred men near Portsmouth, some on the bay side of Princess Anne, one thousand at Hampton, and still retained considerable part on board their ships. Those at Hampton, after committing horrid depredations, have again retired to their ships, which, on the evening of the 26th, were strung along the road from New-ports-news, to the mouth of Nansemond, which seems to indicate an intention of coming up James river. Our information is, that they have from four to five thousand men, commanded by General Leslie, and that they have come under convoy of one forty-gun ship, and some frigates (how many has never been said), commanded by Commodore Rodney. Would it not be worth while to send out a swift boat from some of the inlets of Carolina, to notify the French Admiral that his enemies are in a net, if he has leisure to close the mouth of it? Generals Muhlenburg and Nelson are assembling a force to be ready for them, and General Weeden [Weedon] has come to this place, where he is at present employed in some arrangements. We have ordered the removal of the Saratoga prisoners, that we may have our hands clear for these new guests.

I have the honor to be, with the most perfect esteem and respect,  
Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, COL. WILLIAM PRESTON.

*(From the Draper Papers in the Wisconsin  
Historical Society Library, 5Q087.)*

Richmond Nov<sup>r</sup> 1. 1780

Sir,

The propositions of the Executive for raising in the counties of Botetourt, Washington and Montgomery, corps of volunteers to proceed to the southern army having on account of some circumstances contained in them failed to induce the engagement of such a corps, they have put them into a form in which they hope they will be more successful. The necessity of vigorous exertions to repel the enemy to the seashores and thereby to prevent the necessity of disturbing the operations of husbandry in more interesting seasons, and the peculiar aptitude of the mode of warfare to which your people are habituated for effecting this desirable purpose induce me to apply in the warmest terms to your well known zeal for the American Cause to use your most strenuous endeavours for promoting the object of the enclosed advice of Council, and thereby giving a deci[sive] blow to the southern operations of our enemies. I shall be glad to hear from time to time of your successes and prospects, and am with great respect sir,

Nov. 11. 1780. P. S. should you find that the service will be promoted by sending on the men by company or companies to be regimented there, you will be pleased to do so, since writing the above Colo Campbell informs us he can not proceed shortly to the southward. the Lt Colo and major may therefore suffice for the command till Colo Campbell can come on.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES WOOD.

(From "Virginia State Archives," Ex. Coms.)

Nov. 3, 1780.

Sir,

Your representation on the want of Barracks at Fort Frederic has been again the subject of consideration with the board, together with a Letter from Governor Lee informing me it is not in their power to make more than a partial provision for the subsistence of the Convention troops. Our apprehensions as to desertion to the enemy & corresponding with the disaffected arise from the British altogether. We have no fear of either from the Germans, that the former should be removed *immediately* we think very essential; and we have no objections to the latter remaining until barracks may be provided for them at Fort Frederic. I suppose that the marching them in two divisions, to wit, the British first and Germans next cannot be considered as such a separation as is provided against in the Convention, and that themselves would chuse that the German division should not go on till barracks are provided, as their going would of course so much the more streighten the British accomodations. This mode of removal will put it in our power to push off the British divisions instantly, because they will require but half the waggons, & half the guards; the former of which we suppose you will have procured & for the latter Col<sup>o</sup> Crockett's battalion is in readiness. with which division you would chuse to proceed is left to yourself.<sup>178</sup>

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 358.)

Richmond November 3rd. 1780.

Sir,— Since I had the honor of writing to your Excellency on the 25th ult. the enemy have withdrawn their force from the north side of James river, and have taken post at Portsmouth; which we learn they are fortifying; their highest post is Suffolk, where there is a very narrow and defensible pass between Nansemond river & the dismal swamp, which covers the country below from being entered by us. More accurate information of their force than we at first had, gives us reason to suppose them to be from 2500 to 3000 of which between 60 and 70 are cavalry. They are commanded by General Leslie and were convoyed by the Romulus of 40 guns, the Blonde of 32, the Delight sloop of 16, a 20 gun ship of Jno. Goodrichs and two row gallies: commanded by Commodore Gayton. We are not as yet assured that they

<sup>178</sup> Neither the original of this letter nor of that of October 26 written to Col. Wood—a mere note, given *ante*— has been found—only the copies made by a clerk for transmission to the General Assembly. As is the case with most of Jefferson's copied letters, the punctuation is awry owing to the failure of the clerk to understand Jefferson's use of small letters at the beginning of sentences.

Thomas Sim Lee had succeeded Thomas Johnson as governor of Maryland in 1779.

have landed their whole force, indeed they give out themselves that after drawing the force of this state to Suffolk, they mean to go to Baltimore. Their movements here induced me to think they came in expectation of meeting with Lord Cornwallis in this country, that his precipitate retreat has left them without a concerted object, and that they were waiting further orders. Information of this morning says that on being informed of Lord Cornwallis's retreat, and a public paper produced to them wherein were printed the several dispatches which brought this intelligence from General Gates, they unladed a vessel and sent her off to Charles Town immediately. The fate of this army of theirs hangs on a very slender naval force indeed.

The want of Barracks at Fort Frederic, as represented by Colo Wood, the difficulty of getting waggons sufficient to move the whole convention troops at once, and the state of unreadiness in which the regiment of guards is have induced us to think that it will be better to remove those troops in two divisions: and as the whole danger of desertion to the enemy and of correspondence with the disaffected in our Southern Counties, is from the British only (for from the Germans we have no apprehensions on either head) we have advised Colo Wood to move on the British in the first division and to leave the Germans in their present situation to form a second division, and to be moved so soon as barracks may be erected at Fort Frederic. By these means the British may march immediately under the guard of Colo Crockets battalion, while Colo Taylor's regiment of guards remain with the Germans. I cannot suppose that this will be deemed such a separation as is provided against by the Convention, nor that their officers will wish to have the whole troops crowded together into barracks, which probably are not sufficient for half of them. Should they however insist on their being kept together, I suppose it would be the opinion that the second division should follow the first as closely as possible, and their being exposed to a want of covering would in that case be justly imputable to themselves only. The delay of the second division will lessen the distress for provisions which may perhaps take place on their first going to the new post before matters have got into a regular train.

P. S. By a letter from Colo. Wood received since writing the above, I am informed the British Conventioners are 804 rank & file. He does not mention the present number of the Germans. In May last they were 1503 including officers.<sup>179</sup>

[Jefferson wrote to the president of Congress on the 7th of November a letter on the subject of the victory at King's Mountain. This letter has not been found. The proceedings of Congress in reference to it and its subject matter are found in "Journals of the Continental Congress," XVIII, 1048 ff.]

<sup>179</sup> "According to a report of Colonel Specht, made the 16th of August 1780, the number of troops at Charlottesville, was as follows: 77 officers, 142 non-commissioned officers, 25 drummers, 809 privates and 94 servants; total 1,147 men. It appeared, also, that since the departure of Riedesel, three men had died and no desertions had taken place." "Memoirs of General Riedesel," II, 88.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. STEVENS.

*(From "State Records of North Carolina," XIV, 732.)*

Richmond, November 10th, 1780.

Sir:

Your two Letters of Octobr. 24 and Octo. . . have been duly received. I have been informed that the beeves which had been collecting in Princess Anne & Norfolk to be sent Southwardly were the first things which fell into the hands of the enemy. We received notice of this invasion a few hours after you left this place, & dispatched a letter to recall you, which we expected would have found you in Petersburg; however, you had gone on, and as there Should be a Genl. officer with the men from this State in the Southern Service, and we have here three General Officers, we have not repeated our call for your assistance. The force called on to oppose the enemy is as yet in a most Chaotic State, consisting of fragments of 3 months' militia, 6 months' men, 18 months' men, Volunteers & New Militia. Were it possible to Arm men, we could send on Substantial reinforcements to you, notwithstanding the presence of the enemy with us; but the prospect of Arms is very bad indeed. I have never received a Line from Mr. Lambe as to his Success in impressing waggons; none have yet come in from the westward. The executive were so far from allowing the 18 months' men to inlist into the Volunteer Corps, as you say they pretend that they were expressly excluded from it in the Several propositions we made for raising Volunteers. Nothing of Moment has happened here since the arrival of the enemy. Genl. Muhlenburg is at Stoners Mills, at the head of pagan Creek,<sup>180</sup> with our main force. Genl. Nelson is on the Northside of James River with another body. General Weedon is gone to Join the One or the other. A British emisary was taken two or three days ago, with a Letter from General Leslie to Lord Cornwallis, informing him he was at Portsmouth, but cannot learn where his Lordship was; that he had sent one Letter to him to Charlestown by Water and another by land, and Waited his Orders. Cannot measures be taken to apprehend the Messenger who went by land?

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GATES.

*(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 360.)*

Richmond November 10th. 1780.

Sir,— Your favour of the third instant inclosing Colo. Preston's letter came to hand on the eighth. The proposals mentioned in the colo's Letter for sending volunteers to you were accepted & put as was necessary into such precise form as that all parties might know what they had a right to expect. In doing this two circumstances happened to interfere with what had been expected. 1. We required that they shou'd be subject to your orders and those of such other

<sup>180</sup>Pagan Creek is the short tributary of the James River in Isle of Wight County on which Smithfield is situated.



officer as you should place them under: this was to enable you to make use of them in constituting the corps you had proposed under General Morgan. 2. That there should be two companies of rifles only to each battalion: this was the advice of Genl. Morgan in a conversation with me. We have since dispensed with the last of these conditions and allowed every man to carry his rifle as we found that absolutely necessary to induce them to go. Colo Skiller<sup>181</sup> of Botetourt writes me he has 150 engaged & we shall endeavour to prevail upon Colo Campbell to raise another corps, in which, if he undertakes it, I trust he will succeed. I am much at a loss what should be done as to the prisoners taken at Kings Mountain. I do not think Montgomery Courthouse a good place, because it is very disaffected, it is too near their own country, and would admit their co-operation in any enterprize on our lead mines, which are about eight miles from thence. I have taken measures for continuing their march under a guard northwardly and in the meantime for receiving instructions from Congress where to terminate their journey. The British Convention troops will proceed immediately to Fort Frederick in Maryland. The Germans will remain in Albemarle till accommodations can be provided for them in the same place. From them we have no apprehensions of desertion to the enemy. Some British were taken yesterday who are said to have been with the enemy and were returning to the barracks. Two or three days ago a british emissary from Portsmouth, was taken endeavouring to proceed towards Carolina. On a proposal to search him they observed him to put his hand in his pocket, and put something to his mouth like a quid of tobacco. On examination it was found to be a letter, of which the enclosed is a copy, written on silk paper, rolled up in gold beaters skin, and nicely tied at each end, the whole not larger than a goose quill. By this you will find our conjectures verified that they expected to meet with Lord Cornwallis in the neighbourhood at least of this country, & are disappointed and without an object. Can you not take measures for finding out the other messenger to Lord Cornwallis who went by Land? The force we shall now immediately have together authorizes me to assure you, you need not apprehend their penetrating any distance southwardly. I only lament that this measure shou'd have intercepted our reinforcements to you. We have left all the counties south of James river, and nearer to Hillsborough than portsmouth uncalled on that they may be ready to go to the aid of our southern friends whenever arms can be procured.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From Bergh, "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," IV, 129.)

Richmond, November 10, 1780.

Sir,— I inclose your Excellency a copy of an intercepted letter

<sup>181</sup>This should be Skillern—Col. George Skillern, who had succeeded Col. William Fleming as county-lieutenant of Botetourt County.

from Major General Leslie, to Lord Cornwallis.<sup>182</sup> It was taken from a person endeavoring to pass through the country from Portsmouth towards Carolina. When apprehended, and a proposal made to search him, he readily consented to be searched, but, at the same time, was observed to put his hand into his pocket and carry something towards his mouth, as if it were a quid of tobacco; it was examined, and found to be a letter, of which the inclosed is a copy, written on silk paper, rolled up in gold-beater's skin, and nicely tied at each end, so as not to be larger than a goose-quill. As this is the first authentic disclosure of their purpose in coming here, and may serve to found, with somewhat more of certainty, conjectures respecting their future movements, while their disappointment in not meeting with Lord Cornwallis may occasion new plans at New York, I thought it worthy of communication to your Excellency.

Some deserters were taken yesterday, said to be of the British Convention troops who have found means to get to the enemy at Portsmouth, and were seventy or eighty miles on their way back to the barracks, when they were taken. They were passing under the guise of deserters from Portsmouth.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest esteem and respect, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant.<sup>183</sup>

[On the 13th of November Jefferson wrote to the president of Congress a letter referred to in the "Journals of the Continental Congress," XVIII, on p. 1098.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE AUDITORS.

(*From Virginia State Archives.*)

The Auditors.

Gentlemen:

In Council Nov 11. 1780.

Be pleased to issue on the within certificate from Col<sup>o</sup> Broadhead a warrant for the sum due on the within account in specie or it's value in paper money at the current exchange, to be paid to Maj<sup>r</sup> Lintot or order & charged to the Continent.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 365.*)

In Council November 17th 1780.

Sir,— At the request of the Honorable Theodorick Bland<sup>184</sup> I take the liberty of laying before the General Assembly the inclosed

<sup>182</sup>This letter (also taken from Bergh) was as follows:  
To Lord Cornwallis.

Portsmouth, Virginia, November 4th, 1780.

My Lord.— I have been here near a week, establishing a post. I wrote to you to Charleston, and by another messenger, by land. I cannot hear, for a certainty, where you are: I wait your orders. The bearer is to be handsomely rewarded, if he brings me any note or mark from your Lordship.

A. L.

<sup>183</sup>An almost indetical letter was sent to Samuel Huntington, president of Congress.

<sup>184</sup>Theodorick Bland was at this time a member of the Continental Congress.

paper in which he states a difficulty which has arisen in reconciling his qualifications as a delegate to the peculiar channel into which he had previously turned his private fortune. From the inclosed extract from a Letter from our Delegates in Congress you will also perceive that they suffer some inconvenience from precarious remittances. Tho this be not within the line of our immediate care we have never been wanting in furnishing such facilities as we were able towards effecting remittances to them. But these we believe have been rendered irregular sometimes by the want of conveyance, & sometimes by the state of the treasury.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN  
CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," II, 363.)

Richmd. Novr. 17th 1780.

*Gentn,*— With respect to the payment made on behalf of Mr. Braxton<sup>185</sup> into the Continental treasury in Part of our Quota of the fifteen Million tax, the Executive having been Charged with the raising and remitting that money, we have thought it unnecessary to lay it before the Legislature. The sum to be sent, was sent, partly in Money, and Partly in Bills. These Bills were drawn in *Continental Dollars*, & paible in such, and not in specie. Of this nature was Mr. Braxton's Bill desiring his correspondent to pay so many Continental Dollars into the Treasury. If the treasurer has received payment in another kind of money at an arbitrary rate of Exchange, this must have been either under the Rules of his office or against them. The former I can hardly suppose, and in the latter case it has become his own Private act, and he should be deemed to have received (not £1318-15. hard money but) 263750 dollars Continental Money as he has I suppose given a discharge on Bill for so much of its Contents. Had he rejected the Tender of the Hard Money would not Continental dollars have been paid? If they had not, then indeed the demand should have reverted on the State, and we would have fallen on means for compelling payment. We were really concerned on the return of our agent who carried the Money and Bills that he did not have them regularly protested as there appeared some doubts on them. But he acted for the best in his own Judgment, and in that point of view was to be approved. I am exceedingly sorry that this want of Punctuality has arisen in these remittances. We sold Tobo. for these Bills, which would in much less time have produced us money here. But the

<sup>185</sup>This was Carter Braxton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, at this time a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. Jefferson's letter was referred to Congress by the Virginia delegates. The action of that body is to be found in the "*Journals of the Continental Congress*," XVIII, on p. 1174, and is as follows:

"*Ordered*, That so much of the said letter as respects the receiving into the continental treasury, specie, at the rate of 75 continental dollars for one of specie, be referred to the Board of Treasury, and that they be directed to have the transaction stated in their books and in the books of the treasurer, in such manner that the state of Virginia may not be included in it"—that is, that it was done without the knowledge of the Virginia authorities.

responsibility and known connection between the drawer and drawee induced us to consider them as even Better than money which wd. have been liable to accidents in transportation. Had a tender of specie been made to us here we would certainly have rejected it. But the payment being now to be transacted between the Drawee & Congress (passing us over) neither the Tender or receipt can be considered as our act, but the former the act of the Drawee, and the latter of the treasurer of Congress. We do not therefore think ourselves concerned immediately in this transaction. If Congress please to consider the Payment of the £1318-15 hard money as a discharge of 263.750 dollars paper which was to be paid by the drawee well: if not on rejecting it he will make payment in the specific Money he was call'd on to pay or we will resort to the Drawer, and Compell such payment.

Since writing thus far I note more particularly than I had before done that the treasurers return sais that he had *received from the Commonwealth of Virginia a sum of money in specie &c.* this indeed stating it as the act of this Commonwealth renders it necessary for me to disavow it- which I hereby do. It was the act of the drawee of which the Commonwealth had neither knowledge or Intimation; and this return fixing the act on the Commonwealth instead of the Drawee is so far wrong.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 366.)

Richmond Nov 19. 1780.

Sir,- The vessel which had been sent to Genl. Leslie to Charles-town as we supposed, returned about the 12th inst. The enemy began to embark soon after from Portsmouth, and in the night of the 15th. compleated the embarkation of their whole force. In the morning of the 16th. some of our people entered Portsmouth. They had left their works unfinished and undestroyed. Great numbers of negroes who had gone over to them were left either for want of ship-room, or through choice. They had not moved from Elizabeth river at eleven o'clock A. M. of the 16th. They gave out that they intended up James river, but the precipitate abandoning of works on receipt of some communication or other from Charles town, was not likely to be for the purpose of coming up James river. I received this intelligence by express from Genl. Muhlenberg yesterday morning. As the enemy's situation was such as to give reason to expect every moment a movement in some direction, I delayed sending off notice to you in hopes that that movement would point out their destination: but no such information being yet come to hand I think it proper no longer to delay communicating to you so much. As our riders will be two days going their distance and returning to their post, it will necessarily be so long before anything further can be communicated.

By a letter from Govr. Nash dated Newbern Nov. 5. I am informed that on the 28th. ult. a Capt Howell of that place in a small privateer passed in the night off Charles town a very large fleet, but



of what nation he knew not. In a vessel he took the same day directly out of Charles town were South Carolina gazettes which mentioned this fleet, & that they had for several days been off firing signal guns. A gentleman on board her said Ld. Cornwallis returned to town that day. This is the only intelligence I have received from the Southward since that of Ferguson's defeat which I had the honor of forwarding to your Excellency.

Since writing so far I have received the inclosed dispatches from the Southward. The moment the enemy leave us I hope a good reinforcement may march from their present encampment to the Southward.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GATES.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 367.)

Richmond Nov 19. 1780.

Sir, \* \* \* Since writing so far your favor of the 8th inst comes to hand, accompanied by one from Genl Stevens at Hillsborough of the 10th. A strange derangement indeed our riders have got into to be 9 days coming from Hillsborough. I shall be very happy if the departure of the enemy, which I hourly expect to have confirmed, shall leave us at liberty to send you a substantial reinforcement. The men being now in the field may be marched directly Southwardly. What may be it's precise amount I cannot say till I get from Genl Muhlenburg a return of the 18 months' men the 8 months men & militia, who had been stopped here on their way to the Southward, and from Genl Lawson a return of the volunteers he has engaged to go to the Southward.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(From the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)

Sir

In Council November 20 1780.

The enclosed Letter from the President of Congress with the resolutions of that honorable body of the fourth instant, having come to hand yesterday and being intended for the consideration of the Legislature, I beg leave through you to transmit them to the General Assembly, and have the honor to be with every sentiment of esteem and respect, Sir,

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(From the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.)

In Council Nov<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1780-

Colo Muter will be pleased to have an account made out of all the powder &c., sent or delivered for Continental use since the establishment of the Board of War that we may require a return of it. als ) to call on Mr Maupin for a state of all the powder which has been lent to individuals & never repaid.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(From the Virginia State Archives Ex. Coms.)

In Council November 22<sup>d</sup> 1780.

Sir,

Major Nelson, commanding officer of the three troops of cavalry belonging to this state but in continental service informs me on the part of his officers that they find the service extremely discouraging on account of the preference in command given to Continental officers of the same rank tho junior in their appointments, & pray that they may be placed on continental establishment without which they cannot reconcile a longer continuance in the present service with their ideas of propriety. at his request therefore I beg leave to refer this matter to the pleasure of the General Assembly with whom alone rests the power of negotiating such a transfer with the continental Congress.

[A Captain Goer (or Groer) proposed to Colonel Muter to give instructions in laboratory work. The proposals were forwarded to Jefferson. The correspondence was, in part, as follows:]

War Office, Nov. 23.

To

Capt<sup>t</sup> Goer

Sir

I have received an answer from his Excellency the Governor to your proposals, it is as follows.

In Council Nov<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1780:

The Board agrees to [give] Capt Groer a Guinea per month for each person they put under him to be taught the duties & operations of a Laboratory, but if the number shall exceed four, no more than four Guineas a Month. \* \* \*

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 369.)

Nov. 24th, 1780.

Sir,— I received yesterday evening a letter from General Nelson dated Rich neck November 22nd, at half after five P. M. including a note by which we learn that the vessels of the enemy were all under way except one which was getting under way, and the whole standing out for the Capes. This event tho' relieving us in a certain degree by opening again the door of our commerce and also by putting it in our power to avail ourselves of the whole resources of our country, seems yet to call for an increase rather than abatement of military preparations. Should those now leaving us proceed to enforce the hostile army already in the south; shou'd the same be the object of a new embarkation said on good authority to be preparing in New York; we shall but to [too] probably and speedily see our own retreating enemy treading back their footsteps and menacing this country with a force

to which the southern states have yet seen nothing equal. South Carolina & Georgia we are to consider as weighing nothing *in our scale*. N. Carolina has been exhausted by the ravages of two armies. On this state therefore rests the weight of the opposition, and it is infinitely important that our own efforts be such as to keep the war from our own country, nor does it seem that we have a moment to lose should the enemy be disposed to lose no time on their part. Men to form a permanent army, clothing, covering, arms, subsistence, transportation and money are to be provided. We have left no measures unessayed for procuring supplies of these different kinds as far as the circumstances of our country would admit. Of tents we have a tolerable prospect, and better hopes of supplies of arms than we some time ago entertained. We shall press them forward with unremitting endeavors. Our country affords sufficient substance and we are in train of obtaining it so far as the late powers given by the Legislation extend, and the advanced season of the year permits. But these went to one or two articles only. Clothing, blankets, and transportation are objects of immense difficulty, and money is necessary to set every wheel in action.

I thought it my duty as soon as the motives of the enemy indicated the point to which our efforts would probably be called to suggest to the general assembly these several matters, not doubting but that they will give them all the attention they deserve and adopt such measures as in their wisdom shall appear best calculated for making effective opposition wherever the enemy may think proper to shew themselves. The inclosed papers on the same subject from Major Genl. Green appointed to take command of the southern army, I beg leave to lay before the General Assembly, and am with every sentiment of esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and humble servant.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," II, 370.)

Richmond November 26th, 1780.

*Sir*,— I have been honoured with your Excellency's Letter <sup>186</sup> of the 8th instant. Having found it impracticable to move suddenly the whole Convention troops, british and germans, and it being represented that there could not immediately be covering provided for them all at fort Frederic we concluded to march off the British first from whom was the principal danger of desertion and to permit the germans who shew little dispostion to join the enemy to remain in their present quarters till something further be done. The British accordingly marched the 20th instant, they cross the blue ridge at Rock fish gap and proceed along that valley. I am to appraise your Excellency that the Officers of every rank both British and german but particularly the former have purchased within this State some of the finest horses in it. You will be pleased to determine whether it will

<sup>186</sup>This letter was sent to Gen. Greene, with a letter written by Jefferson to Greene on Nov. 26. See Greene's reply in "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 398, 399.

be proper that they carry them within their Lines. I believe the Convention of Saratoga entitle them to keep the horses they then had: but I presume none of the Line below the rank of field officers had a horse. Considering that the british will be now at fort frederick, and the Germans in Albemarle, Alexandria seems to be the most central point to which there is navigation. Would it not therefore be better that the flag vessel solicited by Genl Phillips should go to that place? It is about equally distant from the two posts. The roads to Albemarle are good. I know not how those are which lead to fort frederick. Your letter referring me to General Green for the mode of constructing light portable boats unfortunately did not come to hand till he had left us. We had before determined to have something done in that way, and as they are still unexecuted, we should be greatly obliged by any draughts or hints which could be given by any body within the reach of your Excellency.

I received advice that on the 22d instant, the enemy's fleet got all under way and were standing towards the Capes. As it still remained undecided whether they would leave the bay or turn up it, I waited the next stage of information that you might so far be enabled to judge of their destination. This I hourly expected, but it did not come till this evening when I am informed they all got out to sea in the night of the 22d. What course they steered afterwards is not known. I must do their General and Commodore the justice to say that in every case to which their influence or attention could reach as far as I have been well informed, their conduct was such as does them the greatest honor. In the few instances of unnecessary and wanton devastation which took place they punished the aggressors.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. STEVENS.

*(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 372.)*

Richmond November 26, 1780.

*Sir,*— The Enemy which lately invaded us left our Capes in the Night of the 22d Instant, what course they steered afterward is not known. Another Fleet of Transports under the Command of Admiral Rodney fell down to the Hook on the 11th Instant. As this as well as the Fleet which lately left us is destined for Charles Town we shall March from their present Encampments all the forces who are so equipped as that they can proceed to distant Service. With them will go on between three & Four Hundred Tents belonging to this State. Three Hundred more are on the Road from Philadelphia and as many to follow. As Baron Steuben remains here to organize our forces I shall be obliged by special Returns of the 18 Months Men 8 months Men, & three months Militia which have or shall Come unto you as frequently as convenient. The Assembly being now met will shortly I hope furnish us with Money so that we may be once more able to send Supplies to the Southward. We have Collected here at length, by impress principles, about thirty Waggons which have been delivered to the Continental Q-M. to be sent on with stores to Taylors Ferry.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO LIEUTENANT JOHN  
LOUIS DE UNGER.<sup>187</sup>

(*From Ford's Writings of Thomas Jefferson, II, 373.*)

Richmond Nov 30. 1780.

Sir,— The letter which covers this being of a public nature I wished separately to acknowledge the many things personally obliging to me expressed in your two letters. The very small amusements which it has been in my power to furnish in order to lighten some of your heavy hours by no means merited the acknowledgment you make. Their impression must be ascribed to your extreme sensibility rather than to their own weight. My wishes for your happiness give me participation in your joy at being exchanged sensibly however alloyed by a presentiment of the loss I shall sustain when I shall again be permitted to withdraw to that scene of quiet retirement abstracted from which I know no happiness in this world. Your line of life must have given you attachments to objects of a very different nature. When the course of events shall have removed you to distant scenes of action where laurels not tarnished with the blood of my country may be gathered, I shall urge sincere prayers for your obtaining every honor & preferment which may gladden the heart of a souldier. On the other hand should your fondness for philosophy resume it's merited ascendancy, is it impossible to hope that this unexplored country may tempt your residence by holding out materials wherewith to build a fame founded on the happiness & not the calamities of human nature. Be this as it may whether philosopher or souldier, I wish you many felicities.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(*From the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.*)

In Council December 5th 1780.—

I beg leave to lay before the General Assembly the inclosed Letter, from the honourable Theodorick Bland, one of our Delegates in Congress, the subjects of which may be proper for the consideration of the Legislative Body and have the honor to be with great respect sir.—

[The following letter written by Col. Muter, the commissioner of war, dated December 8, from the Board of War Papers, gives the substance of one written shortly before by Gov. Jefferson:]

Board of War,  
Dec. 8.

Major Magill<sup>188</sup>

Sir:

I am honored with an answer from his Excellency the Governor, to my letter to him wishing for information with respect to the inten-

<sup>187</sup>This correspondent was evidently, as the letter shows, a "Convention" prisoner who had recently obtained his exchange. It is, of course, not official, but personal, but is inserted as throwing light on a very interesting subject—the kindly personal relations existing frequently between public enemies in the Revolutionary War.

<sup>188</sup>This was Charles Magill, who entered the army in January 1777 as 2nd

tions of the Supreme Executive concerning the troops under your command. It is as follows:

It is the opinion of the Board that the men under Major Magill should return to their station at which they were before the Invasion unless it be so far as Col<sup>o</sup> Muter may think proper to change them.

[On Dec. 10, Gov. Jefferson wrote James Hunter intimating the supposed design of the enemy to approach Fredericksburg. See "Calendar," I, 463.]

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 374.)

In Council December 11 1780.

Sir,— At the request of Major General Baron de Steuben, I take the liberty of transmitting to you his letter and observations on the cautions he thinks necessary to be observed on the raising future recruits. I think it my duty also to mention to the General Assembly that I have received information from him that a very considerable proportion of the new levies raised under an act of the last session of Assembly and now at Chesterfield are totally unfit for service, where much fatigue and hardship is to be endured, being old men, boys, or decrepid: and for this reason he means to decline continuing them in Continental service and to return them to the State.

Supposing that every intelligence which may tend to discover to the General Assembly the future determination of our enemies as to the conduct of the war against us may be acceptable, I beg leave to communicate to them the inclosed extract of a Letter I have received from William Lee<sup>189</sup> esquire. It will be a very happy circumstance if the force intended to oppose their armies in the south can be brought into the field in time to find them embarrassed & retarded with the difficulties of subsistence and transportation through the inland country. Once advanced to a navigable water the communications by sea will relieve them from much incumbrance and in a great measure ensure them from capital disaster. The proposals herewith transmitted for raising a standing body of forces for the defence of this state, requiring conditions beyond the powers of the Executive I beg leave to submit them to the wisdom of the General Assembly.

(From Minutes of the Navy Board.)

Richmond Dec 11 1780.

Letter to the Governor on the Subject of ordering down the Jefferson to Hampton Road & procuring Money to pay off the crew.

His Excellency's Answer was as follows.

lieutenant in the 11th Virginia. He resigned in 1778, but subsequently served as major and colonel in a State regiment.

<sup>189</sup>William Lee was one—next to the youngest—of the distinguished sons of Thomas and Hannah (Ludwell) Lee. He was the brother of Francis Lightfoot, Richard Henry, Thomas Ludwell, and Arthur.

"Money to pay off the Men of the Brig will be ready Friday Evening or Saturday Morning which may be dispatched to them by Express, in the mean time they may be informed of this & the Brig ordered to be in readiness to proceed down as within proposed. Instructions should be given to the Officer commanding on the Cruise to make particular Enquiry whether any persons he may take come within the description of Pirates, & if they do that he make report thereof on his report into port, where the Commodore should proceed to hold a Court Martial on them, & make report to the Executive keeping the Party in the mean time securely confined."

LETTER TO THE VIRGINIA WAR OFFICE, WRITTEN AT  
BOTTOM OF A LETTER FROM THE  
WAR OFFICE TO THE GOVERNOR.

(From the Virginia State Archives).

In Council Dec. 13, 1780.

Capt Thomas<sup>190</sup> is informed by letter from George Muter me this day that he may be supplied with money the next week to put the affairs of the Tanyard into a proper state. Colo Muter will be pleased to prepare proper requisitions on Mr Armistead for nail-rods & tin. The resolution of Assembly of June 1.-80 seems to give an authority to the Executive which extends to the removal of a manager and making any necessary arrangements at the foundry which authority they conceive (Tho' The Gov<sup>r</sup> & council alone are named in the resolution) to be exerciseable in the first instance by the Commissioner of the War office within whose department the foundry is. we think orders should be given to Mr Kemp to secure the clock & Cupola by stopping up the open part of the Cupola, and raising a roof over its exposed floor, or such other measure as an intelligent workman shall think best. it must be made absolutely secure in some way or other.

TH: JEFFERSON.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 375.)

Richmond Dec: 15th, 1780.

Sir,- I had the honor of writing to your Excellency on the subject of an expedition contemplated by this State against the British post at Detroit and of receiving your answer of Oct: 10th. Since the date of my letter the face of things has so far changed as to leave it no longer optional in us to attempt or decline the expedition but compels us to decide in the affirmative and to begin our preparations immediately. The army the Enemy at present have in the South, the reinforcements still expected there, and their determination to direct their future exertions to that quarter, are not unknown to you. The regular force proposed on our part to counteract those exertions is

<sup>190</sup>Capt. Charles Thomas, in charge of the rope-walk at Warwick.

such either from the real or supposed inability of this State as by no means to allow a hope that it may be effectual. It is therefore to be expected that the scene of war will either be within our country or very nearly advanced to it and that our principal dependance is to be on militia, for which reason it becomes incumbent to keep as great a proportion of our people as possible free to act in that quarter. In the meantime a Combination is forming in the westward which if not diverted will call thither a principal & most valuable part of our militia. From intelligence received we have reason to expect that a confederacy of British & Indians to the amount of 2000 men is formed for the purpose of spreading destruction & dismay thro' the whole extent of our frontier in the ensuing Spring. Should this take place we shall certainly lose in the South all aids of militia beyond the blue ridge besides the inhabitants who must fall a sacrifice in the course of the savage irruptions. There seems to be but one method of preventing this which is to give the Western enemy employment in their own country. The regular force Colo: Clarke already has with a proper draught from the militia beyond the Alleghany & that of three or four of our most northern counties will be adequate to the reduction of fort Detroit in the opinion of Colo: Clarke and he assigns the most probable reasons for that opinion. We have therefore determined to undertake & commit it to his direction. Whether the expence of the enterprise shall be at continent or state expence we will leave to be decided hereafter by Congress in whose justice we can confide as to the determination. In the mean time we only ask the loan of such necessities as being already at Fort Pitt will save time and an immense expence of transportation.

these are

4 field pieces 6 pounders

3000 balls suited to them

one Mortar

3000 shells suited to it

2 h<sup>ts</sup>

Grape shot

necessary implements and furniture for the above

1000 Spades

200 Pick axes

1. travelling forge

Some boats ready made should we not have enough prepared in time.

Some Ships carpenter tools.

These articles shall either be identically or specifically returned, should we prove successful it is not improbable they may be where Congress would chuse to keep them. I am therefore to solicit your Excellency's order to the Commandant of fort Pitt for the above articles which shall not be called for until everything is in readiness, after which there can be no danger of their being wanted for the post at which they are: Indeed there are few of the articles essential for the defence of the post.

I hope your Excellency will think yourself justified in lending us



this aid without awaiting the effect of an application elsewhere as such a delay would render the undertaking abortive by postponing it to the breaking up of the ice in the lake. Independent of the favourable effects which a successful enterprise against Detroit must produce to the United States in general by keeping in quiet the frontier of the Northern ones, and leaving our western militia at liberty to aid those of the South, we think the like friendly office performed by us to the States whenever desired and almost to the absolute exhausture of our own magazines give well founded hopes that we may be accommodated on this occasion. The supplies of military Stores which have been furnished by us to Fort Pitt itself, to the northern army, & most of all to the Southern are not altogether unknown to you. I am the more urgent for an immediate order because Colo: Clarke awaits here your Excellency's answer by the express, tho his presence in the Western Country to make preparations for the expedition is so very necessary if you enable him to undertake it. To the above I must add a request to you to send for us to Pittsburg persons proper to work the mortars &c. as Colo: Clarke has none such nor is there one in this State. They shall be in the pay of this State from the time they leave you. Any money necessary for their journey shall be repaid at Pittsburg without fail by the first of March.

At the desire of the Genl Assembly I take the liberty of transmitting to you the enclosed resolution. And have the honour to be with the most perfect esteem & regard your Excellency's most obed & most hble servt.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR WALL.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," II, 205.)

December 21st, 1780.

Sir,— I laid before the Council the Rev: Mr. Fanning's Letter to Mr. Tazewell together with the Letters and other Papers found on Mr. Wickham— The general Expectations of remaining in this country, with which the Enemy (and probably) this young Gentleman came into it, the political character of the Gentleman under whose Auspices he came, his not leaving the Enemy 'till they were obliged to retire, and the complexion of his own Journals and Letters, are circumstances which place him, in their Belief, among the Enemies of this Country. Nothing appears which even leads to a suspicion that a Difference in political sentiment was among the motives which led him from his connections with the Enemy to seek a union with this Country. The manner of his effecting his Transition from the one Party to the other, was not likely to produce any other than a hostile Reception— he comes an Enemy from an Enemy, in the midst of our Country, with arms in their Hands, attempts to pass without application to, or Leave from, any officer civil or military, and to bear Letters, negotiating an Interview between an officer high in the adverse command, and citizens of this State. Under these unfavourable circumstances, the Board cannot but deem him an Enemy, and (being within

our Power) a Prisoner of War— They are at the same time as thoroughly satisfied of the decided principles of Whigism which have distinguished the character of the Rev. Mr. Fanning, that they shall think this young Gentleman perfectly safe under his care, so long as he stays in this State; to him, therefore, they remit him until a flag, daily expected from New York into Potowmack River shall be returning to that Place, when they shall expect him to take his passage back, first calling on the Commissioner of the War Office to give a Proper Parole.<sup>191</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO —————.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 380.)

In Council December 21, 1780.

Sir,— I have received authority from the Legislature to provide cloathing and blankets for the troops by seizing the same which will be accompanied by endeavours to purchase. Agents are out procuring salted beef and others setting out to procure pork in as large quantities as they are to be had to be stored on the Roanoke and its navigable waters. Ten thousand barrels of flour will certainly be provided, the number of waggons which have been delivered to the Continental Q. M. since the date of Gen Gates' requisition I have not yet been able to procure a return of, nor the quantities of spirits delivered to the continental commissary, considerable deliveries of both articles have been made. Any other measures which may have been taken by the Assembly for further compliance with the requisitions of Genl. Green are yet uncommunicated to me, as arms were never among the requisitions made by Congress on the several states, this state never supposed it would be expected they should provide that article for their quota of Continental troops, they have only had in view to procure from time to time so many as might arm their militia when necessity required the calling them into service, from this stock they have furnished arms for Continental use till it is so reduced that they have not the smallest prospect of being able from the State magazines to spare as many as will arm their new Continental Levies.

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<sup>191</sup>The Mr. Wickham, the subject of this very interesting letter, was the Mr. John Wickham who subsequently became a very famous lawyer in this State. He was leading counsel for Aaron Burr in his trial for treason. John Randolph of Roanoke in his will refers to him as "my best of friends and the wisest and best man I ever knew."

Major Wall to whom the letter was written, was Major Charles Wall, a militia officer serving under General Muhlenburg. The Mr. Tazewell, of the letter, was the distinguished Henry Tazewell, who died in 1799 as United States senator from Virginia. On July 7, 1781, he wrote to Governor Nelson, of Virginia, a letter in the interest of Jno. Wickham (see "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," II, 204-207). The Rev. Mr. Fanning's first name was William, with whose brother, Edmund, Jno. Wickham came to Virginia in 1780.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
BERKELEY AND HAMPSHIRE.

(From the *Executive Letter Book* <sup>192</sup> for 1781, Jan. 9-April 27, p. 5.)

Richmond. December 24. 1780.

The County Lieutenants of Hampshire and Berkeley.

Sir,—

A powerful army forming by our enemies in the south and an extensive combination of savages in the west will probably render the ensuing campaign exceedingly active, and particularly call forth all the exertions of this state. it is our duty to look forward in time and to make a proper division of our force between these two objects. there seems but one method of preventing the savages from spreading slaughter and desolation over our whole frontier, and that is by carrying the war into their own country: and to render even this measure effectual our movements must be so early as to be beforehand with them. your county is allotted to the western defence. you will therefore be pleased to send of your militia under proper officers by the way of Pittsburg to the falls of Ohio to join under Colo Clarke in an expedition over that river and to continue in service during the expedition as to which colo Clarke is instructed from hence they must be at Pittsburg precisely by the first of March. they are to be subsisted on the way by such commissary as you shall appoint who is to act as quarter master both offices to cease when he shall have conducted the militia to Pittsburg. I send him for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of these two offices pounds which however I consider as principally to be expended in victualling the men as the baggage they take with them must be very trifling should it indeed be otherwise they will certainly lose it as the means of transportation will become less and less during their tour. let every man go well armed, and with such arms as suit the western service. I must desire you to keep up a constant correspondence with Colo Clarke till you shall have marched your men and having fixed myself the number of men you are to furnish every other instruction I give you herein is submitted to any alterations he shall find necessary.

Hampshire 255 militia. . . . £25,000

Berklely 275. . . . . £30,000

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
GREENBRIER.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 6.)

The County Lieutenant of Green Brier.

Sir,

Richmond Dec<sup>r</sup> 24th, 1780.

A powerful army [as in the preceding Letter] to [go] by the way of Montgomery court house where they will receive under their escort

<sup>192</sup>This letter book contains also, pp. 5-13, copies of seven letters dated Dec. 24, 1780, and of four letters dated Dec. 25. Jefferson's clerk who copied the letters into it probably began this work on his return with Jefferson to Richmond after Arnold was safely away. He commenced a new letter book, copying into it not only current letters but such of those of slightly preceding dates as he could find.

1000 lb of powder and 1500 lb Lead and a large number of pack horses to be carried to the falls of Ohio. From their arrival at Montgomery court house subsistence and the means of transportation of baggage will be found by Mr Rowland Maddison<sup>193</sup> who is appointed to act as commissary and quarter master for them till they shall get to the falls of Ohio. They must be at Montgomery court house by the twentieth day of february precisely and at the falls of Ohio by the 15th of march. they are to join under Colo Clarke in an expedition into the country beyond the Ohio and are to continue in service during the expedition; as to which Colo Clarke is instructed from hence. the Baggage to be taken by the men must be very trifling,—should it be otherwise they will certainly lose it &c (to the end of that Lre)

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
FREDERICK.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 7.)

The County Lieutenant of Frederick.—

Richmond Dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1780.

Sir,

A powerful army &c [same as the Letter to County Lieutenants of Hampshire and Berkeley to the end add] Colo Matthews<sup>194</sup> will send you from Staunton one thousand pounds of powder and Colo Hunter will forward to you from fredericksburg four hundred camp kettles and from this place will besent some medicine tents and other things for the use of the expedition to be transported by your Quarter master under the escort of the militia to Pittsburg where Colo Clarke will have given orders for their reception.—

County Lieutenant Frederick 285 militia

£40,000—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. ROWLAND MADISON.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 7.)

Mr. Rowland Madison.

Richmond December 24th. 1780.

Sir,

It being found necessary to undertake an expedition into the country beyond the Ohio, you are desired to apply for and receive from M<sup>r</sup> Callaway at New London under the order inclosed one thousand w<sup>t</sup> of good musket or rifle powder and to conduct the same to Montgomery court house. You are also to apply for and receive

<sup>193</sup>Rowland Madison was brother of President Madison, of William and Mary College, and son-in-law of General Andrew Lewis.

<sup>194</sup>Col. Sampson Mathews, brother of Col. George Mathews (of the regular Continental line). "Mathews" is the preferred spelling.



fifteen hundred wt of lead from the manager of the lead mines under an order likewise inclosed and to convey it to the same place. you are moreover to act as quarter master and commissary for the militia from Green Brier one hundred and thirty seven in number who are ordered to rendezvous at Montgomery court house by the 20th day of february next and to proceed thence with them to the falls of Ohio. You will therefore provide subsistence for them and forage necessary for the march, and are hereby authorized to call on any commissioners of the provision Law or commissaries having public provisions in their hands to furnish you. You are moreover desired to purchase three hundred pack horses, pack saddles, halters & bells, which may serve to carry the ammuniton before mentioned, provisions, and the baggage of the men to the falls of Ohio where the whole will be received by Colo Clarke and your office determined. we expect you will purchase these horses for £1500, a piece, tho aware of this necessity for purchasing them, we do not limit you absolutely in price, but rely on your discretion to get them as cheap as you can. For these several purposes you receive £500,000— take great care to obtain such authority and protection from the commanding officer of the militia that your horses may not be subject to be rode or unnecessarily burthened, and that you may be able to deliver them in good condition at the falls of Ohio. I am to warn you to use the greatest expedition in performing these several duties, and to see that you be in readiness with every thing required of you at Montgomery court house by the said 20th day of february as a failure on your part will inevitably defeat the whole design: Your accounts are to be finally settled with the board of auditors<sup>195</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
FAYETTE, LINCOLN, AND JEFFERSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 8.*)

The County Lieutenants of Fayette, Lincoln & Jefferson.—

Decem<sup>r</sup> 24th, 1780.

*Sir,*

A powerful army [as in Letter to county Lieutenants Hampshire and Berkeley to 'before hand with them' then omit and add as follows] the counties of Fayette, Lincoln and Jefferson of course must concur in the western defence. From these three I am to desire five hundred militia under proper officers to be furnished, each county sending a quota of the five hundred proportioned to the number of its militia. I do not mean by specifying this number to restrain a greater shou'd

<sup>195</sup>The original draft of the above letter is to be found in the Virginia State Archives, bearing, however, the date of December 23, 1780, and the following notation:

"Apr; 13, 1782.

"I am of opinion that the auditors ought to settle this business as it does not appear necessary to send the person employed to the Commissioners.

"Benj. Harrison."

a greater number be willing to go. they are to be at the falls of Ohio by the fifteenth of March to join under Colo Clarke in an expedition over that river, and to continue in service during the expedition: as to which Colo Clarke is instructed from hence. I need not observe to you that every man must go well armed for the western defence service. I must also desire you to have prepared fifty canoes proper for transporting by water both men and stores and that these be ready at the falls by the day before mentioned. I will avail myself of the first safe opportunity of sending you money to pay for them. you will be pleased to keep up a constant correspondence with Colo Clarke who is authorized to alter any of the instructions herein given—shou'd circumstances in his opinion require it.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
MONONGALIA AND OHIO.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 8.*)

The County Lieutenants of Monongalia and Ohio.

Richmond decem<sup>r</sup> 24. 1780.—

Sir,

A powerful army [as in letter to county lieutenants of Hampshire and Berkeley to 'proper officers' and leave out from thence and insert] to be rendezvouzed at Pittsburg precisely by the first of march to proceed by the way of the falls of Ohio on an expedition under Colo Clarke into the count[r]ly beyond that river and to continue in service during the expedition: as to which Colo Clarke is instructed from hence. The baggage the men take with them must be very trifling. Should it &c., to the end of the Letter.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE QUARTERMASTERS OF FREDERICK,  
HAMPSHIRE, AND BERKELEY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 9.*)

The Quarter Masters of Frederick, Hampshire, & Berkeley.—

Richmond Decem<sup>r</sup> 24th. 1780.

Sir.—

A detachment of the militia of the county of Frederick being ordered to fort Pitt on their way down the Ohio, you are desired to act as Commissary and quarter master for them till their arrival at fort pitt. The time of their rendezvousing within the county will be made known to you by the commanding officer. You will therefore provide in time subsistance for them during their march and transportation for the little baggage they will carry. You will also receive and transport with them to the same place 400 camp kettles, 1000 lbs powder, some medicine, tents and other things, this transportation is to be effected by waggons or horses for hire, and not to be purchased. I send you for the purpose of enabling you to perform these duties £ for the expenditure of which you will finally settle with the board of auditors.—

for the counties of Berkley and Hampshire the same except omitting this sentence 'you will also receive &c.— tents and other things'

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Q M Frederick..... | £40,000 |
| Hampshire.....     | 25,000  |
| Berkeley.....      | 30,000  |

[A letter of Governor Jefferson, of Dec. 25, was read in Congress on January 29.]

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL CROCKETT.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 9.*)

Colo Crockett.

Richmond December 25th. 1780—

Sir,

This will be handed you by Colo George Rogers Clarke, whose orders you will be pleased to receive in future as it is become necessary that your regiment should proceed to act under him to the westward. he will settle with you the time of your marching for Pittsburg and deliver to you the necessary money for subsisting your men to that place.

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL SAMPSON MATHEWS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 9.*)

Colo Sampson Matthews.

Richmond Decem<sup>r</sup> 25th. 1780—

Sir,

We purchased from cap<sup>t</sup> B. Harrison of Rockingham county one thous<sup>d</sup> weight of powder which was to be delivered at Staunton to Colo W. Bowyer who was to examine it. as it is more expedient for the public service that this be forwarded to the county Lieutenant of frederic, I must beg the favor of you to have measures taken for the examining it at Cap<sup>t</sup> Harrisons & forwarding it to the county Lieutenant of frederic. it is necessary that he receive it during the course of the ensuing month of January.—

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO —————.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 10.*)

Jn<sup>o</sup> Francis Moore,<sup>196</sup> or such person as he shall have appointed to purchase provisions for the public in the county and neighbourhood of Monongalia; of if he shall have made no such appointment to be then delivered to Mr W<sup>m</sup> Harrison of Monongalia, who is authorized to transact the business herein pointed out.—

<sup>196</sup>This should be James Francis Moore, at this time General Clark's deputy commissary-general.

Richmond. Decem<sup>r</sup> 25. 1780—

Sir,

The instructions given you here for the purchase of beef and flour you will now be pleased to consider as extended to the procuring 200,000 rations. I send you by Colo Campbell £300,000 in part of what may be necessary to be paid for these and other purposes and shall avail myself of other safe opportunities as they occur to send you further sums till you shall have received a sufficiency to make good all contracts, besides this you are desired to have built immediately one hundred light barges fit to transport men and stores either up or down stream. the whole of these provisions & boats must be in readiness at fort pitt by the first of March and are to be subject to the orders of Colo Clarke. I must urge extreme quantities punctuality as to the time of being in readiness as a body of militia and regulars are ordered to be at fort pitt that day to fall down immediately the river. Your accounts are to [be] finally settled with the board of Auditors.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, pp. 10–14.)*

Richmond december 25th. 1780.

Sir.

A powerful army forming by our enemies in the south renders it necessary for us to reserve as much of our militia as possible free to act in that quarter. at the same time we have reason to believe that a very extensive combination of british & indian savages is preparing to invest our western frontier to prevent the cruel murders and devastations which attend the latter species of war and at the same time to prevent its producing a powerful diversion of our force from the southern quarter in which they mean to make their principal effort and where alone success can be decisive of their ultimate object, it becomes necessary that we aim the first stroke in the western country and throw the enemy under the embarrassments of a defensive war rather than labour under them ourselves. we have therefore determined that an expedition shall be undertaken under your command in a very early season of the approaching year into the hostile country beyond the Ohio, the principal object of which is to be the reduction of the British post at Detroit, and incidental to it the acquiring possession of Lake Erie. the force destined for this enterprize is the Illinois battalion, Colo Crockets battalion, Major Slaughter's corps, with detachments of militia from the counties of Fayette, Lincoln, Jefferson, Ohio, Monongalia, Hampshire, Berkeley Frederic and Greenbrier making in the whole 2000 men. necessary garrisons only to be deducted our desire is that the execution of this may be so timed as that you may have the advantage of that interval of time, which intervenes between the breaking up of the ice in the wabache, and in the lake so as that you may avail yourself of the navigation of the former the moment it is open for the transportation of your men and baggage and still find the latter blocked up and vessels of the enemy therein of course liable to be destroyed. That you may be fully possessed of the means which



are to be in your hands for the purposes before mentioned, you are furnished with Copies of the orders given to the Lieutenants, Commissaries & Quarter Masters in the Counties before enumerated; the substance of them is as follows— Mr. Rowland Madison is employed to carry 1000 lbs of Rifle powder from New-London & 1500 lbs of lead from the lead mines to Montgomery Court house, to purchase 300 pack horses with pack Saddles Halters and Bells ready and to lay in subsistence for them and for 137 militia from Greenbriar County, who, by orders given to the Lieutenant of that County are to rendezvous at Montgomery Court House by the 20th day of February there to take under their escort the ammunition and packhorses beforementioned and to be with them at the Falls of Ohio by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March. M<sup>r</sup> Madison is furnished with Money to purchase the horses and furniture and to lay in subsistence and forage from Montgomery Court House to the Falls of Ohio, where his duties cease.

Forty bell tents, 40 common tents, a Chest of Medicine, some Summer Clothing will be sent from this place; 1000<sup>lb</sup> of Rifle powder from Staunton, 400 Camp kettles from Fredericksburg to the County Lieutenant of Frederick who is ordered to send them with 285 of his Militia to Pittsburg at which place they are to be the first day of March.

The County Lieutenants of Berkeley and Hampshire are ordered to send the former 275 and the latter 255 of their respective Militias to be at Pittsburg by the first day of March.

Proper instructions are prepared for such persons as each of the county Lieutenants of Frederick Berkley and Hampshire shall appoint to act in the joint offices of Commissary and Quarter Master to Pittsburg where their Offices determine and Money is sent to each for the purposes of subsistence and transportation.

The County Lieutenants of Monongalia and Ohio are ordered to rendezvous one fourth of their Militia at Pittsburg by the first day of March. All these Militia are ordered to go under proper Officers well armed with Arms suitable to western service, and to serve during the continuance of the expedition as herein described. Col<sup>o</sup> Crocket is ordered to be with his battalion at Pittsburg by the same day, and Money to enable him to proceed is sent to him.

An Agent is sent to Baltimore and Philadelphia to purchase four tons of canon powder and to send it to Pittsburg by the 1st day of March.

Application is made to Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington to lend us of the Continental Stores at Pittsburg, 4 Cannon, six pounders mounted on field Carriages with ball suitable, a mortar with Shells, 2 Howitz, grape shot and other necessary furnitures, 1000 Spades, 200 pick axes, 500 axes, a travelling Forge, Ship Carpenter's tools, and Boats for transportation down the river should we fail in having a sufficient number in readiness and to send us skilful persons to manage the Mortars.

John Francis Moore who was sometime ago sent to purchase in the vicinities of Fort Pitt provisions for the Western Posts, is now ordered to extend his purchases to 200000. rations of Beef & Flour, and to provide 100 light Barges fit for transporting men and Stores either down or up stream. These to be all in readiness by the 1<sup>st</sup> of

March as we are not certain whether he may not be gone down the river, these powers were directed to himself, or in case of his absence to any Agent he should have appointed, and if he appointed none, then to M<sup>r</sup> William Harrison of Monongalia.

At Pittsburg we depend on orders to be given by you for the removal of Men and Stores to the Falls of Ohio by the 15 of March.

The County Lieutenants of Fayette, Lincoln and Jefferson are ordered to rendezvous at the falls of Ohio by the 15. March 500 of their Militia, to be furnished between those Counties in proportion to their numbers, & to have ready at the same place and by the same day 50 Canoes each: Money is sent to pay for these. In those Counties you inform us you expect 100000 rations will be provided for you, you will of course order them to the falls of Ohio.

All the preceding orders (except as to the numbers of men from each County) are submitted to any alterations you may think necessary, and you are authorized to supply any deficiencies in them. The Staff Officers are submitted absolutely to you, and on removal of any of them by you or their death, resignation or declining to act you are to appoint others. The County Lieutenants are desired to keep up a constant correspondence with you, & the Staff Officers to inform you from time to time of their progress and to receive your orders.— Thus you will perceive that we expect all to be in readiness at the Falls of Ohio by the 15. of March.

What numbers of Men and whether of Regulars or Militia you shall leave to garrison the Posts at the falls & Mouth of the Ohio, is left to yourself. As the latter however is exposed to attack from an Enemy against whom this expedition will be no diversion of force, and as it is distant from succour, it is recommended to you to leave it surely garrisoned and to take Measures for its being supported from the Spanish side of the Mississippi should it be necessary.

You will then with such part of your force as you shall not leave in garrison proceed down the Ohio and up the Wabache or along such other route as you shall think best against Detroit.— By the construction of a fort or forts for retreat at such place or places as you shall think best, and by such other cautions as you find necessary, you will provide for the ultimate safety of your Men in case of a repulse. Should you succeed in the reduction of fort Detroit, and a hopeful prospect open to you of acquiring possession of Lake Erie, or should such prospect open during the investiture of the fort you are to pursue it. As soon as you shall have accomplished both Objects of the fort and Lake, or shall have accomplished the one and find the other impracticable; or as soon as you shall find that neither is practicable you are to consider your expedition as ended, and to withdraw your whole force if you attain neither Object, or, if you acquire one or both of them, to retain for a Garrison at Detroit so many of the Illinois & Crockets battalions as you may think necessary and to send the rest back across the Ohio; in the event indeed of declining to attempt the reduction of Detroit you are at liberty to consider whether some enterprize against the hostile Nations of Indians may not be undertaken with your force, and if you think it can, and that it will be expedient for the public good and eligible on view of all circumstances

you will undertake it and detain your force 'till you shall have finished it. In every event, the Militia on their return are to be marched back to their Counties under their own Officers and there to be discharged.

Should you succeed in the reduction of the Post, you are to promise protection to the Persons and property of the French and American inhabitants, or of such at least as shall not on tender refuse to take the Oath of fidelity to this Commonwealth. You are to permit them to continue under the laws and form of Government under which they at present live, only substituting the authority of this Commonwealth in all instances in lieu of that of his Britannic Majesty, and exercising yourself under that authority till further order those powers which the British Commandant of the post, or his Principal in Canada hath used regularly to exercise. To the Indian Neighbours you will hold out either fear or friendship as their disposition and your actual situation may render most expedient.

Finally, our distance from the scene of action, the impossibility of foreseeing the many circumstances which may render proper a change of plan or dereliction of object, and above all our full confidence in your bravery, discretion, and abilities induce us to submit the whole of our instructions to your own Judgment, to be altered or abandoned whenever any event shall turn up which may appear to you to render such alteration or abandonment necessary: remembering that we confide to you the persons of our Troops and Citizens which we think it a duty to risque as long as and no longer than the object and prospect of attaining it may seem worthy of risque. If that Post be reduced we shall be quiet in future on our frontiers, and thereby immense Treasures of blood and Money be saved; we shall be at leisure to turn our whole force to the rescue of our eastern Country from subjugation, we shall divert through our own Country a branch of commerce which the European States have thought worthy of the most important struggles and sacrifices, and in the event of peace on terms which have been contemplated by some powers we shall form to the American union a barrier against the dangerous extension of the British Province of Canada and add to the Empire of liberty an extensive and fertile country, thereby converting dangerous Enemies into valuable friends.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thos. Jefferson," II, 391.*)

In Council Dec. 29. 1780.

Sir,—The inclosed resolution of Congress came to hand yesterday. As it is on the same subject with the resolution of assembly of 23<sup>d</sup> Decr. I beg leave to lay it before them. That the assembly may be informed of the footing on which this matter stood at the time of their resolution I beg leave to inclose to them an abstract from my letter to Colo. Wood giving a general order for the removal of the whole Convention troops, and a second one which for reasons strongly urged by him suspended the removal of the Germans for a time. These measures



when taken were duly communicated to Congress & to Governor Lee and were approved of by Congress.

What circumstances may have induced an alteration in their opinion I am uninformed. I conjecture however that some difficulty on the subject of provisions has arisen; for by a Letter from the board of war which came to hand with this resolution we are called on to furnish half the provisions necessary for that part of the Conventioners who are gone on, & to transport this to Frederic town in Maryland. Against this I mean to remonstrate and have no doubt of satisfying Congress that this requisition has been too hastily adopted. But I should be glad to be advised by the assembly how to conduct myself should the enclosed resolution of Congress be adhered to on their part: as our rights of jurisdiction cease at our boundry.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 391.)

Richmond, December 31st, 1780.

Sir,— I have this moment received information that 27 Sail of Vessels, 18 of which were square rigged, were yesterday morning just below Willoughby's Point. No other circumstance being given to conjecture their force or destination, I am only able to dispatch Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson into the lower Country, to take such measures as exigencies may require for the instant, until further information is received here. Then or in the mean time your aid and counsel will be deemed valuable. To Major-General Baron Steuben.

[On Dec. 31, Jefferson wrote also to Capt: Jas. Maxwell. See Maxwell's reply "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 409.]

(From Journals of the Council.)

At A Council holden in the Town of Richmond on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1781.

Present

His Excellency Thomas Jefferson esq<sup>r</sup> Governor

David Jameson;  
William Fleming,  
Andrew Lewis

George Webb &  
Jacquelin Ambler  
Esquires

Members.

The Governor reported that being informed yesterday by a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Wray to General Nelson of a British Fleet of 27 Sail arriving in our bay, he had written to General Nelson Captain Maxwell, Lieutenant Reid & the County Lieutenant of Charles City requiring several necessary measures to be taken, & had given orders for stationing expresses for obtaining proper intelligence of which the board expressed their approbation.

Tuesday January 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

The Governor laid before the board a Letter from Colonel Nathaniel Burwell County Lieutenant of James City confirming the infor-



mation of an invasion & giving a State of the Vessels. Whereupon the board advise that there be called into immediate service one half of the Militia of Henrico, Hanover & Goochland & one fourth of the Militia of Fluvanna, Albemarle & Amherst to rendezvous at Richmond—that one half of the Militia of Chesterfield, Powhatan, Cumberland, Dinwiddie & Amelia & a fourth of the Militia of Buckingham, Bedford, Halifax, Charlotte, Prince Edward, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Sussex, Southampton & Brunswick be orderd to rendezvous at Petersburg, the same to come with such arms as they may have under proper Captains & Subalterns from their Counties & to be provided with field Officers at their places of rendezvous—that there be called from the Counties of Shenandoah 216 men, Rockingham 219, Augusta 344 & Rockbridge 146 to bring good rifles and to be under their own field Officers. those who bring no rifles to be put into battalions of Musquetry—that General Nelson be commissioned as a Brigadier during the present invasion & impowered to draw out the Militia of the Counties below Henrico Hanover Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Sussex & Southampton (or such of them as he shall think proper) into such Parts of the lower country as he shall think best—that the arms and other stores from Petersburg be brought towards Richmond—that the powder from the powder Mills be brought to Westham and that Canoes be improved at that place for the transportation of Stores higher up if necessary—that Lieutenant Read with two troops of Nelsons Corps be orderd from Brunswick to Petersburg—that the Commissary be directed to provide subsistence for troops about Williamsburg Richmond & Petersburg & to move the provisions from New Kent up York River: And that Colonel Taylor be directed to take measures instantly for the removal of the residue of the Convention troops to Fort Frederick in Maryland or Frederick town as shall be orderd.

Wednesday January 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

On information that sundry persons are willing to enlist voluntarily to serve as soldiers during the present invasion; The Board advise that the services of such Persons be accepted on condition that they be not thereby withdrawn from the ensuing draught, and engage that the persons raising them shall be appointed to command them as Captains & Subalterns or if this be not understood to be a condition at the time of their enlistment that then they shall chuse their own Captains and Subalterns.

The board proceeded to consider the Act of the General Assembly for reviving and amending the Act entituled 'An Act for procuring a supply of provisions & other necessaries for the use of the army'. Whereupon they advise that John Brown be appointed Commissioner under the said Act- That there be only one Deputy in each Senatorial District who shall be allowed at the rate of 10.000 lbs. Tobo by the year or its worth in paper money according to the valuation made by the grand Jury at the Court next before the date of their warrant. That a Copy of the requisitions of Congress of November 4<sup>th</sup> 1780 for specific articles to be furnished to the Continent be delivered to said Commissioner & he be instructed to procure such of them as may be procured under the said Act.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 32.*)

The Honble Ben: Harrison Speaker of H. Delegates.

January 1. 1781.

*Sir,*

The inclosed Letter conveying intelligence of a fleet appearing in our bay came to hand yesterday. Its size has given suspicions that it may be hostile more especially as we have been lately informed that an embarkation was taking place at New York. I have thought it my duty to communicate it to the general Assembly before their rising as they might perhaps wish to give some advice to the executive on this subject.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. WILLIAM ARMISTEAD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 33.*)

Mr. William Armistead.

In Council January 1, 1781.

*Sir,*

There is an account of very considerable amount between us and Mr. S. Nathan a merchant from the Havannah which we are to desire you to settle with M<sup>r</sup> Smith who acts for him. The debts against us may be arraigned under three heads. first advances on a purchase of goods made at Baltimore and Philadelphia for us by Mr Nathan; this is to be settled according to the price of tobacco at the time the money was advanced. Second a set of bills is drawn at S<sup>t</sup> Vincennes Kaskaskeas and the falls of Ohio on Colo Clarke the Governour and Treasurer of Virg<sup>a</sup> these bills have no acceptances on them, but we agreed to pay them according to the rate of depreciation, which shou'd be certified by colo Todd and colo Clarke. I inclose you a table of depreciation certified by them and on another paper a settlement of the true worth of the bills in hard money according to that table which you can readily convert into currency by the medium of tobacco. 3rd a set of bills drawn at the same places on the same persons and on M<sup>r</sup> Oliver Pollock of new Orleans. These bills Mr Nathan brought with him and presented to the executive, informing them that he had taken them up at new Orleans or the Havanna and paid hard money for them, dollar for dollar; the executive being then un-informed in what manner these bills had been negotiated and having no particular reasons to doubt but that they had been disposed of by colo Clarke and colo Todd as hard money assumed on every Bill that they would pay it in Tobacco at twenty five shillings the hundred. Since this it has appeared from Col<sup>o</sup> Clarkes Information that these Bills except the one drawn on New Orleans were drawn & negotiated precisely on the same Footing with the others, that is that they were drawn to pay for Articles purchased at the depreciated Prices and

were not expected by the Person in whose Favour they were drawn to be paid for otherwise than in depreciated Money. the difference which this makes to the State is immense and as our Assumpsit was on Mr Nathans own Word we do not think that any Error into which we have been led by want of Information or Misinformation can in Equity be irrevocable We do therefore insist on settling this set of Bills on the same Principle of Depreciation on which the other is settled and cannot but believe M<sup>r</sup> Nathan will be sensible of the justice of this and will concur in it.

P. S.—Monies have been advanced to M<sup>r</sup> Nathan, Col<sup>o</sup> Legres & Maj<sup>r</sup> Lintot in Part of the above Accounts these will appear on the Auditors Books & in Mr Days Book

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. WILLIAM ARMISTEAD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 34.*)

M<sup>r</sup> William Armistead,

In Council January 1<sup>st</sup> 1781

Sir,

I desired you some time ago to provide cloathing for five hundred & odd men according to a List from Baron Steuben which I put into your hands: be pleased now to deliver the Materials to the Person attending from Col<sup>o</sup> Davies to receive them out of the Stock you purchased or what came from Winchester or from any other Stock you have.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 34.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> William Davies

In Council January 1<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Baron Steuben having desired that all Issues and Furnitures from us to the Continent might be on his Order while here, I immediately on Receipt of your Letter sent it down to the Baron; he was just set out to Hoods. I therefore have given an Order to M<sup>r</sup> Armistead to deliver the Materials to the Person attending for you that they may be making up, & paying due Attention to the Barons Request, am to ask the Favour of you to let not a Shred be issued till the Baron shall give orders on the Subject. Before that Time I hope some Arrangement will be taken for debiting the Souldiers with them at proper Prices as that is to be done as to all Issues after the first of August last which were not due. On the Order of Baron Steuben a Person is gone to Petersburg to select a number of the best Arms there and have them brought on to your Post which I suppose will answer your request of one hundred Stand.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BROWN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 35.)*

Mr John Brown

In Council January 1<sup>st</sup> 1781.*Sir,*

The inclosed Letter will inform you what measures have been taken for procuring a proper Stock of Flower for the ensuing Year. It contains a List of the Counties on which we called for Flower & the Quantity from each County. You will be pleased to take measures for raising it use [up] to fifteen thousand Barrels by calling on the Commissioners of such other Counties as you think proper or any other more eligible Means. Mr Benjamin Harrison lent some bread & Flower to the State. Be pleased to inform of the Quantity and repay it immediately.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 35.)*

A Circular Letter to the County Lieutenants of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Amherst, Chesterfield, Powhatan, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Amelia, Buckingham, Bedford, Halifax, Charlotte, Prince Edward, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Sussex, Southampton, Brunswick.

Richmond January 2d 1781.

*Sirs,*

The Arrival of a hostile Force within our State being confirmed and their movements indicating an intention to come immediately into the Heart of the Country renders it necessary to call for of your Militia under proper Captains and Subaltern Officers to rendezvous

That there may not be a moments Delay let them come in detached Parties as they can be collected every Man who has Arms bring them. The good of the service requires that the Field Officers at least should be experienced in the Service, for this Reason these will be provided for at the Rendezvous. I beg that this may not be considered by the Militia Field Officers as proceeding from Want of Respect to them. We know & confide in their zeal: but it cannot be disreputable to them to be supposed less knowing in the art of war than those who have had greater experience in it; and being less knowing, I am sure that true spirit of Patriotism with which they are animated will lead them to wish the Measure to be adopted which will most promote the Public safety however it may tend to keep them from the Post in which they would wish to appear in defence of their Country. The Militia must be subsisted to their Rendezvous under the Rules of the Invasion Law. A List of all Certificates given being kept and returned to the Auditors.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 32.*)

Benjamin Harrison.

January 2nd, 1781.

Sir,

I have this moment rece<sup>d</sup> a confirmation of the arrival of a hostile fleet consisting of 19 ships two brigs and ten sloops and schooners. the advance of a fleet were yesterday morning in Wareisqueake bay <sup>197</sup> and just getting into motion up the river with a favorable wind and tide. Their destination from the intelligence of deserters and some captured mariners whom they put on shore is up James River. I beg the favor of you to communicate this intelligence to the Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO LIEUTENANT READ.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 37.*)

To Lieutenant Reid [Read] or the commanding Officer of Major Nelson's Cavalry at Brunswick Courthouse.

January 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The arrival of a Hostile Army here being confirmed and there being Reason to believe they mean immediately to push into the Heart of the Country, You will be pleased in the instant of receiving this to put your Troops in motion for Petersburg leaving Orders for the Cloathing which will come to Brunswick to follow you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL FRANCIS TAYLOR.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 37.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Francis Taylor <sup>198</sup>

Richmond January 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Another powerful Army of the Enemy having invaded us and seeming to be pushing directly up we have determined that the residue of the Convention Troops be removed immediately, you will therefore take measures instantly for their Removal to Fort Frederic in Maryland or Frederic Town as shall be ordered. You are hereby authorized to impress Waggon, Teams, Drivers for transporting Provisions and Forage for subsisting them on the Road for which Purpose you had better send forward proper Persons to lay in the necessaries at proper Stages on the Road. Beef will be the best animal Food because it will move itself.

<sup>197</sup>This bay is now called Burwell's Bay.

<sup>198</sup>Francis Taylor, captain 2d Virginia, 1776; major 15th Virginia, 20th March, 1778; retired 1st September, 1778; colonel Virginia Convention Guards, January, 1779, to June, 1781.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL THOMAS NELSON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 38.)*

General Nelson

Richmond January 2<sup>d</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

It happened unfortunately that from the Tenor of Mr. Wray's Letter which gave us the first Intelligence of the Appearance of an Enemy we had reason to expect more precise Information within a few Hours. None such having come within fifty Hours, the first Intelligence had become totally disbelieved. At 10 o'clock this morning I first received Confirmation of it. Orders go out by the members of Assembly to call together Half the Militia of the most convenient Counties for present Opposition and one fourth from more distant Counties. We mean to have four thousand six hundred Militia in the Field. In this Number is not included any below this County. Hanover, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Sussex and Southampton, all below these Counties we have left uncalled on to be drawn by you (or such of them as you think proper) into such Parts of the lower Country as you shall think best. Mr Brown the Commissary has Orders to send a Deputy to furnish you with Provisions. I do myself the Pleasure of sending you a Commission. I pray you to send us as frequent Intelligence as possible, Expresses being in readiness for this Purpose at Williamsburg and New Kent Courthouse. Be pleased to give the same Notice to the Militia as formerly that no man will be ever discharged till he shall have returned whatever Public Arms or Accoutrements he shall have received; be also particular in noting what is delivered to every Man. We mean to appoint the Field Officers on the same Plan as in the former Invasion from the resigned and supernumerary, preserving the Ranks of those Gentlemen accurately as among themselves.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 36.)*

Circular Letter to the County Lieutenants of  
Shenandoah, Rockingham, Augusta and  
Rockbridge.

In Council January 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Enemy having again thought proper to invade our Country and being now on their Way up James River I have thought proper with Advice of the Council of State to require of your Militia under proper Officers to repair immediately to Richmond, armed with good Rifles and Accoutrements suitable as far [as] they have them; such of them as have not Rifles will be armed here with musquets and joined to Battalions of Musquetry. Those who bring Rifles will be formed into a separate Corps. much will depend on the proper Choice of Officers. they are to be furnished with Provisions by impressing it as directed by the Invasion Law, the Person pro-

curing it for them keeping and returning to the Auditors a List of the Certificates they grant, stating the Name, Article, Price and Purpose. As the enemy show by their movements an Intention to take Post in the Heart of our Country, at once I beseech you to lose not a moment in sending off your men.

Shenandoah 216

Rockingham 219

Augusta 344

Rockbridge 146

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. STEUBEN.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 397.*)

To Major-General Baron Steuben.

January 2d. 1781.

Sir,— I have this moment received a confirmation of the arrival of a hostile Fleet consisting of 19 Ships, 2 Brigs, and 10 Sloops and Schooners. The advance of the Fleet were yesterday morning in Warrasqueak Bay, and just getting into motion up the river with a favorable wind and tide: their destination from the intelligence of deserters and some captured mariners, whom they put on shore, is some where up the river, supposed to be Petersburg. We shall be very glad of the aid of your counsel in determining on the force to be collected, and other circumstances necessary to be attended to, for the purpose of opposition, if it be convenient for you to call on the council immediately.

[On Jan. 2 Jefferson also wrote a letter to R. H. Lee. See Lee's reply in Ballagh's "Letters of Richard Henry Lee," II, 174].

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. SKILLERN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 39.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Skillein [Skillern]

Richmond January 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am pleased to hear that two Companies of Volunteers have gone from your County to the aid of the Southern Army, that is the Direction in which it seems most convenient to point your Efforts to aid the Public Cause. we are at present invaded in this quarter. the Force not yet precisely known. We shall not however [however] suffer it to divert your Aids from the Southern Army. The Company in your County which is incomplete cannot be made up by draughting. As to the light Horse you wish to raise we have it not in our Power to arm them; the applications to our Magazine from the Continental Horse & the Losses sustained during the late Invasion<sup>199</sup> have left us unfurnished with Swords and Pistols. The Deserters whom you have taken up may either be sent to the Southern Army or to Chesterfield Courthouse wherever you should first meet with an Escort. The

<sup>199</sup>General Leslie's invasion.

Bedford Militia are called here; perhaps you might send the Deserters to the County Lieutenant of Bedford to be forwarded under Guard of his Militia. If the Intelligence be certain that the Cherokees are taking up the Hatchet, I hope your County Washington & Montgomery will crush it at once by a vigorous effort, but if it be not certain it would be imprudent while we have an Enemy to combat in the North, South & East to draw on one in the West also. I have purposely avoided giving particular Instructions as to this Matter, having repeatedly [noticed] that from the Circumstance of Distance before my Letters can get out on [a] Change of Appearances renders their Contents improper or ineffectual. The only Requisition therefore which I have to make is that on Occasions you will lend to the Counties exposed that ready and effectual Aid which you have ever done. I am with great Respect

*(From Journal of the Council.)*

Thursday January 4. 1781.

The Board proceeded to take into consideration the Act for recruiting this States quota of troops to serve in the Continental Army. Whereupon they advise

That one Copy of the said Act be sent by expresses to the Commissioners of the tax for each County and one other to every County Lieutenant- That the County Lieutenant or other Commanding Officer of the Militia for the time being in every County be authorized to receive Soldiers enlisted to serve during the War by any Persons for the Purpose of procuring to themselves an exemption from Draughts & Musters as in the said Act is directed- That blank Calanders be printed & sent to the County Lieutenants to be filled up by them with the names, ages & other descriptions of their Levies as by the said Act is directed- That New London, Winchester, Fredericksburg, Chesterfield Courthouse & Staunton be the Places of rendezvous for the New Levies under the said Act- That the County Lieut<sup>s</sup> send their levies to whichever of these Places they think proper- That the Officers conducting the Levies to the rendezvous be authorized to apply for subsistence on the march to the Deputy Commissary of the District or to any other Person having public provisions in their possession, and on failure to obtain it in that way, that he impress it giving Certificates to the Persons from whom he impresses & returning to the Auditors a List of such Certificates stating the names inserted therein, article, date, & price accompanied by a Certificate from the County Lieutenant that he was appointed to conduct the levies to the place of Rendezvous: that the Commissary be instructed to have provisions laid in at the places of rendezvous to subsist the levies collected at them respectively and to march them to Chesterfield Courthouse which is to be the place of General rendezvous and that Major General Baron Steuben be requested to appoint an Officer to attend at each rendezvous for the purpose of receiving the Levies & conducting them to the general rendezvous.

On information that the enemy have passed far up James river seeming to point immediately to this place or Petersburg—the board



advise that all the Militia able to bear arms be called from the Counties of Henrico Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan & Chesterfield to rendezvous at Westham- that Colonel Taylor be desired to put the Convention troops into immediate motion for removal without waiting for their baggage-

That Colonel Banister<sup>200</sup> be required to call out the whole of his Militia for instant opposition to the enemy & that he be empowered to call to his assistance the whole of the neighboring Militia- that a Letter be written to Colo Richard Meade<sup>201</sup> requesting him to superintend the Commissary & Quarter Masters Departments in the manner proposed by Baron Steuben.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 40.*)

Circular Letter to the County Lieutenants of  
Henrico Hanover Goochland, Powhatan  
& Chesterfield.

Richmond January 4 1781.

Sir

The Enemy having last night past far up James River and seeming to point immediately to this Place or Petersburg, I must desire you without a moments Delay to send every man of your County able to bear Arms to rendezvous at Westham, let them come in small Detachments as they can be collected and not wait to be formed into Companies.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. FRANCIS TAYLOR.

(*From the Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 41.*)

To Colonel Francis Taylor.

In Council January 4<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The enemy now appear to be pushing to this Place and we know not how much further they may attempt to penetrate. A Suspicion that the Conventioners might be induced to attempt a Co-operation and by that means distract the efforts of our People renders it necessary that in the instant of your receiving this you put those Troops into Motion without waiting for their Baggage or any thing else, within a very few Hours we expect you may throw the whole across the blue ridge and it may be well for you to call on the Counties of Augusta, Amherst and Albemarle to collect a Force at Rockfish gap to oppose any pursuit. I would not have those Counties on account of such a call withhold the Militia required to come here. They must furnish so many additional as you call for. A Multiplicity of Business puts it out of my power to send you written Powers of impress. but you must

<sup>200</sup>John Banister, county-lieutenant of Dinwiddie County, residing close to Petersburg.

<sup>201</sup>This was Lieutenant Colonel Richard Kidder Meade, aide-de-camp to General Washington.

exercise that Power for every Purpose only requiring your agents to keep exact Lists of their Certificates to be returned to the Auditors as directed on a former Occasion.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL RICHARD MEADE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 41.)*

to Col<sup>o</sup> Richard Meade.

In Council January 4<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

The present invasion having rendered it necessary to call into the Field a large Body of Militia the providing them with Subsistence and the means of transportation becomes an arduous Task in the unorganized State of our military System. To effect this we are obliged to vest the Heads of the Commissary's and Quarter Master's Departments with such Powers as if abused will be most afflicting to the People. Major General Baron Steuben taught by experience on similar Occasions has pressed on us the necessity of calling to the Superintendence of these two Offices some Gentleman of distinguished Character and abilities, who, while he prescribes to them such Rules as will effectually produce the object of their appointment will yet stand between them and the people as a Guard from Oppression. Such a Gentleman he would propose to consider as of his Family under this exigency we have taken the Liberty of casting our eyes on yourself as most likely to fulfill our wishes and therefore solicit your undertaking this charge; in doing this we rely on the impulse of purer motives than those which would spring from any pecuniary reward it is in our Power to offer. At the same Time we cannot with justice permit that any expences incurred in such a station should be borne by yourself. I shall hope to receive your answer by the return of the Bearer.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JOHN BANISTER.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 40.)*

Col<sup>o</sup> Bannister<sup>202</sup>

In Council January 4<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

My former Order required only half of your Militia to be embodied the rapid Approach of the enemy renders it necessary that for instant Opposition you embody the whole able to bear arms. Should they not be armed, there are Waggons loaded with Arms at Chesterfield Courthouse under orders to proceed to Powhatan Courthouse by an Application to Col<sup>o</sup> Carrington or other Commanding Officer you can stop a sufficient number of these Arms. Should events make it necessary I hope you will call on the neighbouring Counties for the whole of their Militia. As you may have earlier Intelligence than myself I cannot do better than repose this Trust with you.

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<sup>202</sup>The name was frequently spelled thus and is usually spelled now "Banister"—with one "n".

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 403.)

To Major-General Baron Steuben.

Manchester, Jan. 7th. 1781. 2 o'clock P. M.

Sir,— I have thought myself very unfortunate in missing of you for two days though riding over the same ground on which you were. On my arrival here I was informed you were at Ampshill [Ampthill] and was setting out for there, when a Gentleman came who assured me you were at Osborne's and having rode thirty miles through the rain, I have not resolution enough to undertake to go to Osborne's this evening.

I received your letter of yesterday<sup>203</sup> at Westham at noon. I fear it will be impossible to furnish the thousand Stand of Arms you desire. Col. Davies has sent some hundreds from Westham to different places to be put into the hands of the Militia coming in. He has undertaken to have those remaining there separated, in order that such as are capable of being used may be sent to you, and I have engaged persons who are gone out to impress Waggon to transport them to you. Colo. Davies seemed doubtful to what place they should be ordered. I mean to continue here or at Richmond to see whether I can collect the several Staff Officers of the State, and have the benefit of their Services on the present occasion. I shall be very happy to aid those of the Continent with every power I am invested with. While at either of these places I shall be able to communicate both with yourself and General Nelson, and to do everything you will be pleased to suggest for the service. I fear the want of Arms fit for service will be a most distressing circumstance. Are there no Continental Arms which can be used on the present occasion? I mean to endeavour to collect hands and tools immediately to repair Arms. Tools will be the most difficult to be procured.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 402.)

To Major-General Baron Steuben.

Manchester, Jany. 7th, ½ past 9 P. M.

Sir,— Your letter of this morning on the subject of finding where the arms have been sent and having them put into the hands of the Militia I have this morning received. I think most of the arms have been sent off in different directions by the orders of Colo. Davies, whom I believe to be therefore best acquainted with their situation. If I did not misunderstand him to-day he has accordingly directed particular bodies of militia to go to particular places to receive arms. However (if I do not go to Richmond to-night which I have some thought of doing) I will write to Col. Muter to appoint some proper person to undertake and execute this business immediately as you

<sup>203</sup>Steuben's letter is printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 420.

desire; as I wish exceedingly to relieve you from every unnecessary embarrassment when I know you are exposed to but too many which are unavoidable.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 1.*)

The Baron Steuben,

Richmond January 9. 1781.

Sir

Mr. Granville Smith,<sup>204</sup> a State Quarter Master now waits on you. As I am not thoroughly acquainted with the Continental Regulations, I shall just mention to you my Ideas on this particular matter without laying any stress on them and leave to your determination the propriety of using Mr. Smith. I have ever understood that the rule of Congress was to admit no expenses to be Continental which were incurred by any State merely under an apprehension of an Invasion; but that whenever a State was actually invaded all expenses became Continental. This I know was the rule while I was Member of Congress, but as it is four years since I was a Member of Congress, I cannot affirm of my own knowledge, tho I have understood that it is still the rule. The practice here has accordingly been for the Continental Quarter Master to come into duty as soon as the State has been invaded; he being appointed under the authority of Congress it has been supposed that he could best regulate all expences according to the Continental rules. The State Quarter Master not being appointed under Congress, not possessing their confidence, nor subject to their removal or punishment seems for these reasons an improper person to dispense their monies. I submit these matters however altogether to yourself. Should you think it proper that the State Quarter Master should act Mr Smith is instructed to receive your Orders: he is a discreet & sensible Officer

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS AND  
GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 1.*)

President of Congress

&

General Washington

Richmond January 10. 1781.

Sir

It may seem odd considering the important events which have taken place in this State within the course of ten days past that I should not have transmitted an account of them to your Excellency; but such has been their extraordinary rapidity and such the unremitted exertions they have required from all concerned in Government that I do not recollect the portion of time which I could have taken to commit them to paper.

<sup>204</sup>Granville Smith, captain of Grayson's Continental regiment, 4th February, 1777; resigned 15th July, 1778.



On the 30th of December a Letter from a private Gentleman to Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson came to my Hands, notifying that in the morning of the preceeding day 27 sail of Vessels had entered the Capes and from the tenor of the letter we had reason to expect within a few hours further intelligence whether they were friends or foes, their force, & other Circumstances. We immediately dispatched Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson to the lower Country with power to call on the Militia in that Quarter or to act otherwise as exigencies should require but waited further intelligence before we would call for Militia from the middle or upper Counties. No further intelligence came till the second inst. when the former was confirmed, it was ascertained that they were Enemies and had advanced up James River to Warrasqueak Bay. All arrangements were immediately taken for calling in a sufficient body of Militia for opposition. In the night of the 3d we received advice that they were at anchor opposite James Town: We then supposed Williamsburg to be their object. The wind however, which had hitherto been unfavorable, shifted fair, and the tide being also in their favor they ascended the River to Kennon's that Evening and with the next tide came up to Westover, having on their way taken possession of some works we had at Hoods, by which two or three of their Vessels had received some damage but which were of necessity abandoned by the small Garrison of 50 men placed there on the Enemy's landing to invest the Works. Intelligence of their having quitted the Station at James Town from which we supposed they meant to land for Williamsburg and that they had got in the Evening to Kennon's, reached us the next Morning at 5 o'Clock and was the first indication of their meaning to penetrate towards this place or Petersburg. As the orders for drawing Militia hither had been given but two days no opposition was in readiness: every effort was therefore necessary to withdraw the arms and other Military Stores Records &c. from this place. Every effort was accordingly exerted to convey them to the Foundry five Miles, and to a laboratory six miles above this [place] till about sunset of that day when we learnt that the Enemy had come to an Anchor at Westover that Morning. We then knew that this and not Petersburg was their object and began to carry across the River everything remaining here and to remove what had been transported to the Foundry and Laboratory to Westham the nearest crossing seven Miles above this place; which operation was continued till they had approached very near. They marched from Westover at 2. o'Clock in the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup> and entered Richmond at 1 o'Clock of the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup>. A Regiment of Infantry and about 30. Horse continued on without halting to the Foundry. they burnt that, the boring Mill, the magazine & two other Houses, and proceeded to Westham; but nothing being in their power there, they retired to Richmond. The next morning they burnt some Buildings of public, and some of private property, with what Stores remained in them, destroyed a great quantity of private Stores and about 12 o'Clock retired towards Westover where they encamped within the Neck the next day. The loss sustained is not yet accurately known. As far as I have been able to discover it consisted at this place in about 300 Muskets, some Soldiers Clothing to a small amount, some Quarter Masters Stores of which 120 sides of Leather is

the principal articles, part of the artificers tools & Waggon. Besides which five brass 4 pounders which we had sunk in the River were discovered to them, raised and carried off. At the Foundry we lost the greater part of the Papers belonging to the Auditors Office, and of the Books and Papers of the Council office; about 5. or 6. Tons of Powder as we conjecture was thrown into the Canal, of which there will be a considerable saving by remanufacturing it. The Roof of the Foundry was burnt, but the Stacks of Chimnies and Furnaces not at all injured; the boring Mill was consumed. Within less than 48 hours from the time of their landing, 19. from their destination being known they had penetrated 33 miles done the whole injury and retired. Their numbers from the best intelligence I have had are about 1500 Infantry & as to their Cavalry accounts vary from 50 to 120, the whole commanded by the parricide Arnold. Our Militia dispersed over a large tract of Country can be called in but slowly. On the day the Enemy advanced to this place 200 only were embodied they were of this Town, & it's Neighbourhood, and were too few to do any thing effectual. At this time they are assembled in pretty considerable numbers on the South side of James River, but are not all yet brought to a point. On the North side are two or three small Bodies, amounting in the whole to about 900 men. The Enemy were at 4 o'Clock yesterday Evening still remaining in their encampment at Westover and Berkley Neck. In the meanwhile Baron Steuben a zealous friend has descended from the dignity of his proper Command to direct our smallest Movements: his vigilance has in a great measure supplied the want of force in preventing the Enemy from crossing the River, which might have been very fatal. He has been assiduously employed in preparing equipments for the Militia as they should assemble pointing them to a proper Object and other Offices of a good Commander. Should they loiter a little longer and he be able to have a sufficient force I still flatter myself that they will not escape with total impunity. To what place they will point their next exertions we cannot even conjecture: the whole Country on the tide Waters and some distance from them is equally open to similar Insults. I have the honor to be with every sentiment of respect,

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 4.*)

Brig. Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon.

Richmond Janr<sup>y</sup> 10, 1781.

Sir,

I inclose you a Copy of a Letter I have received from Baron Steuben and must rest on you the taking such Measures as you may think most likely to effect his recommendation: for which purpose you will be pleased to call on any Militia you think proper, and for any public Arms or other Stores which may be at hand. I have heard you have embodied a number of Men to join Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson: under this situation I am really at a loss what to direct, and must leave you to act according to your discretion. You know the situation of Hunters

Works, and the Militia and Arms which may be collected for their defence; If you think them adequate to the purpose, after those embodied by you shall have come away, I wish you to come by all means as Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson's force neither is, nor is like to be, sufficient to cover Williamsburg, and the lower Country. If you think those Works cannot be protected without your force, it seems to be the Baron's opinion that the Works should be saved. I have written him that I should recommend to you to govern yourself by this circumstance, and desired him to communicate any better plan he can suggest, & promised to forward it to you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN NICHOLAS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 3.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> John Nicholas <sup>205</sup>

January 10. 1781.

Sir

I am not fond of encouraging an intercourse with the Enemy for the recovery of property; however, I shall not forbid it while conducted on principles which are fair and general. If the British Commander chuses to discriminate between the several species of property taken from the People, if he chuses to say he will restore all of one kind, and retain all of another, I am contented that individuals shall avail themselves of this discrimination; but no distinction of persons must be admitted. The moment it is proposed that the same species of property shall be restored to one which is refused to another, let every application to him for restitution be prohibited. The principles by which his discrimination would be governed are but too obvious, and they are the reverse of what we should approve.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JAMES HUNTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 4.*)

M<sup>r</sup> James Hunter

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 10. 1781.

Sir,

The importance of your Works to the operations of War will doubtless point them out as a proper object of destruction to the desolating Enemy now in our Country. They are at this time at Westover and will possibly embark there. Their next expedition we cannot foresee; lest it should be to demolish your Works, I write to Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon to take measure for protecting them: In the mean time I would advise you to move directly off into the Country every thing moveable. Should you not be able to effect this by your own and hired waggons,

<sup>205</sup>There is in the city of Richmond at the northeast corner of Mulberry Street and Grove Avenue a stone marker showing where militia under Colonel Nicholas had a brush with Arnold's pickets. In the *Sons of the Revolution in the State of Virginia Quarterly Magazine*, July, 1924, pp. 15-23, in an article by John Q. James, entitled "Arnold's Picket Line," there is a good account of the services of Col. Nicholas.



I hereby authorize you to impress Waggon, teams & drivers for that purpose, only placing yourself instead of the public in point of responsibility to the Owners.<sup>206</sup>

<sup>206</sup>It is appropriate to give at this point as a note extracts from Jefferson's diary for the first 11 days of January, 1781, the period of Arnold's irruption into the interior of the State. The diary itself is not now in existence. The extracts were made by Jefferson to disprove charges of incompetence and cowardice brought against him. The originals are now among the Jefferson manuscripts in the Library of Congress. They have been printed in several places, the immediate source of the text as appearing in this volume being Burk's "History of Virginia," IV, Appendix XII.

1780—Saturday, December 31, 8 o'clock, A. M.—Received first intelligence that 27 sail were in the morning of the 29th, just below Willoughby Point—Sent off General Nelson with full powers.

1781—January 1.—No intelligence.

2, 10 o'clock, A. M.—Information from N. Burwell, that their advance was at Warrasqueak Bay—gave orders for militia—one third from some and one half from other counties—Assembly rose.

Wednesday, 3, 8 o'clock, P. M.—Received letter from E. Archer, Swans' Point, that at 12 o'clock that day, they were at anchor a little below Jamestown. At 5 o'clock, P. M., same day, I had received a letter from R. Andrews for General Nelson, that they were at Jamestown the evening of the 2d.

Thursday, 4, 5 o'clock, A. M.—Mr. Eppes and family, &c. came and informed me from the Speaker, that they had passed Kennon's and Hood's the evening before, the tide having made for them at 1 o'clock, P. M. of the 3d, and the wind shifted to E. strong. They had not, however, passed Hood's, but anchored at Kennon's—Called the whole militia from the adjacent counties. I was then anxious to know if they would pass Westover or not, as that would shew the side they would land.

*Friday*, 5 o'clock, P. M.—Learnt by Captain de Ponthiere, that at 2 o'clock, P. M. they were drawn up at Westover. I then ordered arms and stores, &c. (which till then had been carrying to Westham) to be thrown across the river at Richmond; and, at half-after 7, P. M. set out to the Foundry and Westham, and set Captain Bousch, Captain Irish and Mr. Hylton, to see everything wagoned from the Magazine and Laboratory to Westham, and there thrown over—no work all night. The enemy encamped at Four mile Creek—I went to Tuckahoe and lodged.

January 5.—Early, went over to the river with my family—sent them up myself to Fine creek—went to Westham—gave orders for withdrawing ammunition and arms (which lay exposed on the bank to the effect of artillery from the opposite shore) behind a point—Then went in sight of Manchester—Had a view of the enemy, and my horse failing, I borrowed one—Went to Chetwood's, appointed by Baron Steuben as a Rendezvous and Head Quarters, but finding him not there, and understanding he would go to Colonel Fleming's, I proceeded there for quarters. The enemy arrived in Richmond at 1 o'clock, P. M.—One regiment of infantry and 30 horse, proceeded without stopping to the Foundry—burnt that and the Ballandine's house, and went as far as Westham. They returned that evening to Richmond—sent me propositions to compound for property.\*

January 6.—In the morning, they burnt certain houses, and stores—and, at 12 o'clock of that day, left Richmond, and encamped at 4 Mile Creek. I went to Westham—ordered books and papers particularly, from magazine—in the evening, I went up to Fine-Creek.

January 7.—I returned to Westham, and then came down to Manchester where I lodged. The enemy encamped at Westover and Berkley. It had rained excessively the preceding night, and continued to do so till about noon.—Gibson has 1,000 men Steuben 800—Davis [Davies] 200—Nelson 250.

January 8.—At half after 7, A. M. I returned to Richmond. The wind gets about this time to N. W.—a good gale—in the afternoon becomes Easterly. The enemy remain in their last encampment. General Nelson at Charles City Court-House. Colonel J. Nicholas with 300 men at the Forest.

January 9—11 o'clock—The wind is S. E. but almost nothing. The enemy remain at their last encampment—except embarking their horse.

January 10—At 1 o'clock, P. M. they embark infantry, and fall down the river



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES WOOD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 5.*)

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 12. 1781.

Colo. James Wood

Sir

The Enemy having returned from this place and fallen down James River, and the German Prisoners being represented by you to be in a distressed situation for want of covering and food, you will be pleased to march them back again to the barracks in Albemarle.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 5.*)

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 12. 1781.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson,

Sir,

M<sup>r</sup> Eppes, Doct. Griffin,<sup>207</sup> Doct. Foushee, M<sup>r</sup> Hylton, M<sup>r</sup> Selden & others wish to serve in the Cavalry during the Invasion We give orders to furnish them with such accoutrements as we have and will be obliged to you to form them & others into a proper troop or troops, settling the commands as shall be most agreeable to themselves.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. SAMPSON MATHEWS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 14.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Sampson Mathews

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 12. 1781.

The Enemy have retired from this place and fallen down James River. We have reason to apprehend their next stroke is at Fredericksburg where M<sup>r</sup> Hunter's Works and some public works are of such importance as to require protection: Having heard of your being on the road with the Militia from beyond the Ridge I am to desire you to turn off immediately to Fredericksburg, and to proceed with all possible dispatch. There Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon will be ready to direct your operations. It is apprehended the Enemy (if they aim at that place)

the wind having shifted a little North of West, and pretty fresh. Baron Steuben gets to B. mills to night, 9 miles short of Hood.

January 11—8 o'clock, A. M. The wind due West, and strong.

\*"On this point, we have heard Mr. Jefferson state that two individuals were deputed to him by Arnold, to propose his allowing the British to bring, unmolested, a certain number of vessels to Rockets, for the purpose of taking away tobacco and other articles, and threatening conflagration, in case of a refusal. The degrading proposal was, of course, rejected."

This observation was made by Louis Hue Girardin, the author in most part of the 4th volume of Burk's History of Virginia.

<sup>207</sup>Corbin Griffin, hospital surgeon, 1776-1777. Volunteer hospital surgeon at Yorktown, October 1781.

will land on Potowmack, from which they will have seven miles to march through woods and defiles.— The distance is short, but the ground very favorable for the Rifle service.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 15.*)

Brigadier Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 12. 1781.

Sir,

Hearing of 744 Militia from Rockbridge and Augusta & Rockingham on the road through Albemarle, I have sent orders to meet and turn them down to Fredericksburg, where they will expect your orders: They are commanded by Col<sup>o</sup> Sampson Mathews. You will please to observe that as all these were to be rifle Men they were to bring their own field Officers.

Baron Steuben has sent Col<sup>o</sup> Loyauté<sup>208</sup> the bearer of this to me, and proposed that we should avail ourselves of his Services as an Artillerist for the protection of Fredericksburg. As this matter is entirely in your hands, I beg leave to refer him to you altogether. He is desirous of carrying thither some brass 24<sup>lbs</sup> from New Castle<sup>209</sup>. They are without carriages, and of course if mounted on batteries would be in extreme danger of being taken. I had moreover ordered them to the forks of James River as a place of safety. nevertheless should they be absolutely necessary for you, you will take them, for which this will be your Warrant.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 14.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson

Richmond, Jan<sup>y</sup> 12, 1781.

The Enemy left a number of Horses at Westover which they had taken during their late incursion. Col<sup>o</sup> Nicholas very properly ordered a party to take charge of them and bring them to the Quarter Master where they might be kept for the Owners to come and claim them; but I am well informed that in the meantime several men of Capt. Hockaday's command of Charles City have plundered and carried them off. These men being under your Command I beg you to take the most coercive measures for compelling a restitution and letting them know that the most vigorous and exemplary punishment wil<sup>l</sup> be inflicted on every Man who shall be known to have one of them and not to deliver him up. Such as are recovered be so good as to have brought up. The mischief done us by our Citizens plundering one another has far exceeded what the Enemy did.

<sup>208</sup>See references to Loyauté in Vol. I, of this series.

<sup>209</sup>New Castle was in Hanover County, on Pamunkey River, about five miles below Hanover town. It was here that the Hanover volunteers assembled under Patrick Henry for their march on Williamsburg when Governor Dunmore removed the gunpowder from the magazine.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 15.*)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Baron Steuben

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 12. 1781.

Sir

I was honored with yours of yesterday by Col<sup>o</sup> Loyauté. Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon to whom the care of the Works at Fredericksburg had been committed being now at Hanover Court House I have referred Col<sup>o</sup> Loyauté to him, and given them authority to make use of the brass Cannon, Howitz or Mortars at New Castle, if they can use them, for they are unmounted. I heard in the same instant that 744 rifle men under Col<sup>o</sup> Mathews were as far as Albemarle on their way down: Being then within 60 miles of Fredericksburg I have ordered them to proceed to that place.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. SENFF.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 16.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Senff

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 13. 1781.

Sir,

As it is necessary for us instantly to build proper Shops and Magazines at Westham, and first of all things a plan is to be laid, I will beg the favor of you to come to this place and lend us your Assistance in forming the plans. Magazines, Laboratories, and artificers Shops both for the State and Continent on a tolerably large Plan are to be so brought together as that they may be covered by some small Works for the present and in future included within a fortification, when we shall be able to build one.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL CLARKE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 16.*)

Colo Clarke

Richmond Jan 13 1781

Sir

I received last night from General Washington a Letter on your Subject in which he has complied with my request. As every movement will depend so much on yourself in the Western quarter I leave to yourself to determine whether you should not as soon as possible repair hither & take the ultimate measures which are necessary.<sup>210</sup>

<sup>210</sup>This letter as actually sent was addressed—"Colo. George Rogers Clarke on command under Baron Steuben." The original is now among the Draper Papers in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. It is in Jefferson's own handwriting. The second sentence be ins with a small letter, and is so printed in Vol. VIII of the "Illinois Historical Collections" (p. 491).

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WOOD.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 16.)*Col<sup>o</sup> WoodRichmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 13. 1781.

We have no board: the three Members present concur with me in opinion that it would be well to enlist as many of the Regiment of Guards as will engage for the War. The Bounty is 2000 dollars. I cannot say whether the Money can shortly be furnished.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO CORNET GRAVES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 16.)*

Cornet Graves

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 13. 1781.

As you have been very long appointed Cornet to a Troop of Dragoons, and have never repaired to duty; I am to desire that you will immediately assign to me the reasons which have kept you from duty. Should they not be satisfactory, a report of your Conduct having been regularly made by Col<sup>o</sup> Wood, an arrest must of course follow.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 17-18.)*To Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Baron SteubenRichmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 13. 1781.

Sir

I received your favor of the 11<sup>th</sup> by M<sup>r</sup> Smith. I cannot say at what point of time the expences attending an Invasion become Continental: I suppose Congress have some fixed rule on that subject which, whatever it be, when applied to all the States, will be equal.

From the time at which they called for specific Quotas of Provisions from the Several States, they seem to have considered their purchasing Commissaries as useless, and therefore desired us whenever we should have appointed a person to furnish these specifics, we would discontinue their purchasing Commissaries. We appointed M<sup>r</sup> Brown to procure the specifics, which he is either to deliver to certain Storekeepers appointed by the Continental Quarter Master, or to the Continental issuing Commissaries. I think therefore M<sup>r</sup> Brown may continue to act with you with propriety and I hope he will with effect. We did not discontinue the Continental Deputy Commissary of Purchases here (Maj<sup>r</sup> Forsyth) but his acceptance of a similar office in another quarter seems to have determined his former commission.

I have heard nothing of the Enemy since their reaching Sandy point; this leaves me very anxious for our shipyard up Chickahominy.

I have lately received some dispatches which render it necessary for Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke to proceed immediately to the western Country. I have written to him on this subject, and hope he will obtain your per-



mission to return. I did not expect at the time he went to you that his stay would have been rendered so short.

If this incursion of the Enemy should much longer postpone the execution of the late Law for raising new levies, it will be among its worst effects. Yet this law cannot be carried into execution in those Counties from which Militia are sent. Forseeing this, when you had favored us with your advice as to the number which should be called into the field we confined the Call to the following Counties, and requiring from each a fourth we expected the following Numbers

|                           |     |                             |     |                            |      |
|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|------|
| Halifax.....              | 247 | Albemarle.....              | 218 | Lunenburg.....             | 169  |
| Charlotte.....            | 156 | Fluvanna.....               | 65  | Mecklen <sup>s</sup> ..... | 212  |
| P. Edward.....            | 142 | Goochland.....              | 145 | Brunswick.....             | 325  |
| Bedford.....              | 325 | Cumberland.....             | 102 | Dinwiddie.....             | 175  |
| Buckin <sup>m</sup> ..... | 162 | Powhatan.....               | 71  | Chesterfield.....          | 164  |
| Amherst.....              | 224 | Amelia.....                 | 275 | Henrico.....               | 155  |
| Sussex.....               | 175 | Southamp <sup>n</sup> ..... | 218 | Rockbridge.....            | 146  |
| Augusta.....              | 344 | Rockingh <sup>m</sup> ..... | 219 | Shenandoah.....            | 216  |
|                           |     |                             |     | Total                      | 4650 |

The whole amount is something larger than you desired but we of course expected deficiencies. Some of the adjacent Counties were called on at first for one half, and afterwards the whole of their militia for present defence. In like manner Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson was authorized to call on certain other Counties for present defence; but it was meant that as soon as the proportions above mentioned from the counties particularly named were come in, all others should be dismissed. I state this matter to you supposing you will think with me that the sooner you can begin the business of arranging your force on the plan originally intended, the better it will be. As soon as the whole Militia of the Counties, not meant to be kept in the field can be discharged we will send the act into those Counties and have it carried into execution.

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 18.)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Baron Steuben

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 14. 1781.

Sir

Your letters of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> are now before me: They are in some measure answered by some marginal notes on the several Articles in a paper delivered me by Maj<sup>r</sup> Walker. If there be any State Arms fit for use and still undelivered they are so few that we may consider them as nothing. I should therefore think it proper to discharge so many Militia as cannot be furnished with Arms. My letter of yesterday will point out what particular Militia should be discharged. Should it happen that there are already more Militia with you from the Counties enumerated in my yesterday's letter than you have Arms for, would it not be proper to send the surplus of such Militia over to Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson to take the place and arms of so many of his who were not meant to be detained.

The publick have not a pound of Powder or other article of Military Stores at South-Quay, except some 24 and 18 lbs. iron Canon: They are unusually heavy for their bore, and tho a Q. Master has been specially sent and employed there during the last Summer in bringing them over to Suffolk or Smithfield they have so far baffled his attempts as that he has got over but one of them: another broke down a bridge on its passage w<sup>h</sup> suspend<sup>d</sup> his further endeavors.

P. S. If it be possible for you to spare Col<sup>o</sup> Senf to plan our Works at Westham we shall be glad of his assistance.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 24.*)

The Honob<sup>l</sup> Virginia Delegates in Congress

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 15. 1781.

Gentlemen

I called on M<sup>r</sup> Anderson the writer of the letter to Capt Trot which you were pleased to inclose to me and desired he would explain the foundation on which he had written that letter. His explanation I now Enclose you from which you will be able to collect only thus much that his application on behalf of M<sup>r</sup> Trot was utterly rejected and nothing which could authorize him to suppose we should wink at his loading his Vessel with Corn. He has trimmed up an Answer for me of which I only wish to be acquitted till it can be understood.

I must at the same time acknowledge to you with candor that considering the neutral light in which Congress have placed the Bermudians and the extreme want of Salt here we have at various times permitted them to bring in Salt and exchange it with Government at the rate of one Bushel of Salt for two at first and afterwards three of Corn: and sometimes for Tobacco. We have been rigorous in allowing no more to be carried out than was procured by exchange in this way. You cannot be made more sensible of the necessity which forces us to this Barter, than by being assured that no further back than the Counties adjoining the Blue-ridge Salt has sold lately for from 4 to 500£ the bushell.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO JACOB WRAY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 19.*)

Jacob Wray Esq<sup>re</sup>

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 15. 1781.

To want of intelligence may be ascribed a great part of, if not the whole of the Enemy's late successful incursion to this place. Tho they appeared in the Bay on the Saturday, no notification of it addressed to the Executive came to hand till 10 o'clock A. M. on tuesday There did indeed on Sunday Morning come to my hands a letter which you were so kind [as] to write to Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson informing him that 27 sail had been seen in the Bay and that Commo. Barron had gone to

reconnoitre them more closely. But as it was not known whether they were Friends or foes, and we hoped more particular intelligence on the return of Commo. Barron, none but the lower Militia were called out, till the Tuesday following, by which two days were compleatly lost; which would have added so much to the collection of Militia in this quarter as to have rendered doubtful at least whether the Enemy could have got here.

I mention these circumstances to shew you the necessity of our being better furnished with intelligence of the Enemy's Movements, and to apologize for my troubling you with the task of communicating every thing interesting through the line of Expresses stationed at every 15 miles from hence to Hampton. One is to be fixed by M<sup>r</sup> Kemp at Hampton who will set out on yours, or Commo. Barron's order and deliver his dispatches to the next who is ordered to be stationed half way between Hampton and Williamsburg: the particular place I cannot inform you, but the Express may do it. I hope you will be so good as to undertake this trouble and to continue it so long as it may be necessary to keep up the line.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 19.*)

General Nelson

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 15 1781

Dear Gen<sup>l</sup>

I have never heard a tittle of the Enemy since your information that they were at Sandy Point the day after they left Westover; nor is any thing known at this place as to their subsequent Movements. As this want of intelligence might eventually be fatal, I have ordered an Express to be stationed at Bottom's Bridge,<sup>211</sup> another at New Kent Court House, a third at Bird's tavern, a fourth at Williamsburg, a fifth half way between that and Hampton and a sixth at Hampton. It will be easy for M<sup>r</sup> Kemp to throw letters from you where ever situated into this line, and as each Rider will have but 15 Miles out and the same back they may if necessary be put into motion every day. By the same means you may have communications with Hampton. Your Business may probaly put it out of your power to write so often, but hope that some of the Gentlemen about you may be able to give us intelligence every day or two.

<sup>211</sup>This bridge is over the Chickahominy River about fifteen miles from Richmond. On one side is Henrico County and on the other New Kent. The Chickahominy is one of the most historic streams in America.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 19.*)

President of Congress  
and  
Governor Lee

Richmond, Janua<sup>y</sup> 15, 1781.

As the dangers which threaten our Western Frontiers the ensuing Spring render it necessary that we should send thither Col<sup>o</sup> Crocket's battalion, at present on guard at Frederick Town but raised for the western service, I thought it necessary to give your Excell<sup>y</sup> previous information thereof that other forces may be provided in time to succeed to their duties. Captain Reade's troop of Horse, if necessary, may be continued a while longer on guard.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT  
OF CONGRESS.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, p. 443-445.*)

Richmond Jany 15, 1781.

Sir,— I received some time ago from Major Forsythe, and afterwards from you a requisition to furnish one half of the supplies of provision for the Convention troops removed into Maryland. I should sooner have done myself the honor of writing to you on this subject but that I hoped to have had it laid before you more fully than could be done in writing by a Gentleman who was to have passed on other public business to Philadelphia. The late events in this State having retarded his setting out, I think it my duty no longer to postpone explanation on this head.

You cannot be unapprised of the powerful armies of our enemies at this time in this and the southern States, and that their future plan is to push their successes in the same quarter by still larger reinforcements. The forces to be opposed to these must be proportionately great, and these forces must be fed. By whom are they to be fed? Georgia and South Carolina are annihilated, at least as to us. By the requisition to us to send provisions into Maryland it is to be supposed that none are to come to the southern Army from any State north of this; for it would seem inconsistent, that while we should be sending north, Maryland and other States beyond that should be sending their provisions South. Upon North Carolina then already exhausted by the ravages of two armies, and on this State are to depend for subsistence those bodies of men who are to oppose the greater part of the enemys force in the United States, the subsistence of the German and of half the British conventioners. To take a view of this matter on the Continental requisitions of November 4th, 1780, for specific quotas of provision it is observable that North Carolina and Virginia are to furnish 10,475,740 ps of animal food, and 13,529 barrels of flour, while the states north of these will yield 25, 293,810 ps of animal food, and 106,471 barrels of flour.



If the greater part of the British armies be employed in the South, it is to be supposed that the greater part of the American force will be sent there to oppose them. But should this be the case while the distribution of the provisions is so very unequal, would it be proper to render it still more so by withdrawing a part of our contributions to the support of Posts Northward of us? It would certainly be a great convenience to us to deliver a portion of our Specifics at Frederick Town rather than in Carolina; but I leave it to you to judge whether this would be consistent with the general good or safety. Instead of sending aids of any kind to the northward, it seems but too certain that unless very timely & substantial assistance is received from thence, our enemies are yet far short of the ultimate term of their successes. I beg leave therefore to refer to you whether the specifics of Maryland as far as shall be necessary had not better be applied to the support of the Posts within it, for which its quota is much more than sufficient, or were it otherwise whether those of the States north of Maryland had not better be called on, than to detract anything from the resources of the Southern Opposition already much too small for the encounter to which it is left. I am far from wishing to count or measure our contributions by the requisitions of Congress. Were they ever so much beyond these, I should readily strain them in aid of any one of our Sister States. But while they are so far short of those calls to which they must be pointed in the first instance, it would be great misapplication to divert them to any other purpose; and I am persuaded you will think me perfectly within the line of duty when I ask a revisal of this requisition.<sup>212</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO —————.

(*From the Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 23.*)

To the Person employed to collect Workmen

Jan. 15, 1781.

*Sir*

The destruction of the public Storehouses, Magazines, Laboratory, Shops and other Works at this place and Westham by the Enemy having left our Arms, Powder and other Stores exposed in open Houses to plunder and our Artificers unfurnished with Houses to proceed in the repairs of Arms and other necessary Works, obliges me, as the only resource for a hasty collection of Sawyers, Carpenters and Wheel-Wrights, to apply to the public spirit of the Gentlemen of this Country who possess Workmen of that kind. You will therefore go out for this purpose and address yourself to them apprising them fully of the necessity for throwing up hasty Works for these purposes. Whatever Workmen they have we hope they will spare and send in immediately with their Saws and Tools. They will not be long wanted, and their hire shall be fixed by some impartial and judicious person according to the rates in hard money formerly allowed with a proper attention to the late advance of Wages, which shall be paid in Tobacco at 20/.

<sup>212</sup>This letter was sent also to Gov. Lee, of Maryland, and to the president of the Board of War. See Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 22.

p hundred or its worth in paper Money. If Gentlemen who have timber on James River above the Falls chuse rather to employ their Sawyers under their own eye, and will cut and send to Westham or the fork of the River as they shall be advised Quantities of Plank fit for Building it will answer the public purpose as well as if they sent their Sawyers to us. In this case they must fix the quantity and time within which it shall be delivered the worth of this shall be fixed on the principles before explained.

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL NELSON.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 21.*)

Richmond January 15. 1781.

Dear Genl.

As I suppose by this time you may have more Men than Arms, and there are no more Arms fit for use remaining in the public Stock economy will require that the surplus Militia be discharged. This measure is the more necessary as the law for raising new levies remains unexecuted while the Militia are from their Counties. I shall therefore take the liberty of pointing out to you, as I have done to Baron Steuben, what particular Militia should be first discharged. On confirmation of the intelligence that a hostile fleet had arrived we asked the advice of Baron Steuben as to the numbers which should be brought into the field: He advised 4000 we therefore called on the following Counties for one fourth of their Militia which we expected would produce the numbers as annexed to them viz

|                     |                     |                   |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Halifax.....247     | Cumberland.....102  | Sussex.....175    |
| Buckingham....162   | Mecklenburg....212  | Rockingham....219 |
| Goochland.....145   | Henrico.....155     | Bedford.....325   |
| Lunenburg.....169   | Augusta.....344     | Fluvanna.....65   |
| Chesterfield....164 | Prince Edward...142 | Amelia.....275    |
| Rockbridge....146   | Albemarle.....218   | Dinwiddie.....175 |
| Charlotte.....156   | Powhatan.....71     | Southampton...218 |
| Amherst.....224     | Brunswick.....325   | Shenandoah....216 |

The amount (4650) was greater than the Baron's requisition because we of course expected deficiencies. The above were intended to be kept in the feild for some time; but some of these Counties were distant, we called on those in the neighbourhood of this place at first for one half and afterwards for all their fighting Men for present defence meaning that as soon as those before enumerated should be in the feild those called for present defence should be discharged. In like manner you are authorized for the purpose of hasty opposition to call on certain Counties, which it was likewise our idea to discharge on receiving the force which was to remain. Whenever, therefore, all your arms shall be taken up, should more Militia come in we would chuse that you discharge so many of those Counties not originally called on, or of those which tho' originally called on have yet more than one fourth in the feild. By these means we shall in time have in the feild the Militia of those particular Counties only which were first called

on, and the other Counties being all at home we may proceed to send to them the law for raising levies in order to its execution.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL PICKERING.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 24.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Timothy Pickering,

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 15. 1781.

Sir,

I wrote you in a former letter that on the recommendation of Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene we had proposed to Maj<sup>r</sup> Forsyth the accepting the appointment of Deputy Quartermaster here which you had been pleased to refer to us. This appointment was kept open I think a Month during which time (and indeed at any time since) we never received any answer from Maj. Forsyth, or intimation through any other Channel that he would undertake it. On the contrary it appeared by letters from him that he had accepted the office of Deputy Commissary of purchases for the Southern Department. In the mean time Col<sup>o</sup> Carrington, appointed by Gen<sup>l</sup> Green Deputy Quarter Master to the Southern Army, arrived here, claimed the right of nomination, and nominated a Maj<sup>r</sup> Claiborne.<sup>213</sup> Tho' we doubted the propriety of his claim, yet it was a want of acquaintance with Maj<sup>r</sup> Claiborne, and a real inability (after the refusal of M<sup>r</sup> Divers and Major Forsyth) to find another whom we could recommend in all points, which induced us to refer the nomination altogether to Baron Steuben who was here: He approved of Maj<sup>r</sup> Claiborne as having formerly known him while of Gen<sup>l</sup> Green's Family and assured us the appointment would be particularly agreeable to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene, and that he would undertake to satisfy you also of it's propriety. I thought it my duty to inform you of this matter, and have no doubt from any thing which I have yet seen but that Major Claiborne will do justice to the Baron's expectations.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR CHARLES DICK.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 20.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Charles Dick<sup>214</sup>

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 15. 1781.

Sir

I am exceedingly pleased at the spirited exertions of your town and its neighbourhood, which with the aid Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon carries back, and the Militia called from the Counties of Rockbridge, Augusta, Rockingham and Shenandoah (supposed about 900) and directed to proceed to Fredericksburg will I hope secure you. I meant this day to have begged the continuance of your attention to the Gun factory

<sup>213</sup>Richard Claiborne, 1st lieutenant 1st Continental Artillery, 1777; brigade major Weedon's brigade November 1777, to ———; deputy quartermaster general, 1780 to 1782.

<sup>214</sup>Major Charles Dick was superintendent of the gun factory at Fredericksburg. For Dick's answer to this letter, see "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," Vol. I, pp. 455-456.

till a restoration of quiet and leisure will permit us to look out another. We mean to send off from this place immediately a number of the Muskets to be repaired at the factory and M<sup>r</sup> Hunter's Works. Should danger appear in the mean time be so good as to lodge an order some where on the road for stopping and storing them at a proper distance, or at least so many of them as cannot be repaired in a short time. The Offices have not yet resumed Business.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GREENE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 26.*)

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 16-1781.

Sir

Your favors of the 14th and 31st December remain unanswered. I have been less attentive to the communication of our progress in preparing for the Southern War as Baron Steuben who knows all our Movements gives you no doubt full information from time to time. The present invasion of this State you have been before apprised of by the Baron. The very extraordinary and successful attempt of the Enemy on this place you will also have heard of. The inclosed paper containing a pretty exact narrative of it, I take the liberty of transmitting to you. The Enemy on Baron Steuben's approaching towards Hoods, hoisted sail and with the assistance of a very fine Gale which sprung up in the instant, they fell down the River in a very short time. When they came we were in a very fair way of providing both subsistence and Men; they have amazingly interrupted both operations: the latter indeed has been totally suspended. I have just written to Baron Steuben so to arrange his force of Militia, as by permitting those from the greater number of Counties to return home, to put into our power to have the law for raising Regulars carried into execution. This his anxiety for regular force will lead him to do with all practicable expedition.

Your Bill in favor of Mr. St. Lawrence is accepted, and will be paid as soon as the several Boards resume Business.

When the departure of the Enemy, or indications of their fixed plans as to this Country shall have enabled me to judge how far they will interrupt our Succours to you, I will take the earliest Opportunity of stating to you under every Head of your requisitions from us what we shall have a prospect of doing.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. ABNER NASH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 27.*)

Governor Nash

&

in part to the Presn<sup>t</sup>  
of the Board War, N. Caro

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 16. 1781.

Sir

I am honored with your Excellency's favor of the 3<sup>d</sup> inst, and am to thank you for your permission & countenance to our Pork purchases.



The late invasion of this State by the Enemy should not have been so long uncommunicated to you by me, but that the very extraordinary movement they made was such in its nature as to allow little time to those concerned in Government to think of anything but the providing means of opposition and in the mean time with drawing everything from their power. From a fatal inattention to the giving us due notice of the arrival of a hostile force two days were completely lost in calling together the Militia;—a time which events proved would have added so much of our collection of Militia as to have rendered doubtful their getting from this place. The Winds favouring them in a remarkable degree they almost brought the first news themselves of their movements. They were landed within twenty six miles of this place before we had reason to suspect they would aim at it. The little interval of twenty three hours between that and their actual arrival here was assiduously and successfully employed in withdrawing the public Stores from hence and from Westham seven Miles above this. This was so far done that our loss did not exceed 300 Muskets, about 5 Tons of Powder, some Sulphur, 5 feild peices, four pounders and some inferior articles of no great account. The letters and records of the Executive were the greater part lost. They retired hastily to their shipping after 23 hours possession of this place. The interruption which they have given to raising Men and providing subsistance is likely to be very injurious. We are endeavoring to get over this difficulty also as well as we can. Should any movements take place interesting to your State I shall communicate them to your Excellency as soon as known to me, tho the communication will be circuitous. Perhaps, should they take Post at Portsmouth, you might think it expedient to establish a line of Expresses to the neighbourhood of that place.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 25.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson.

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 16, 1781.

Sir

The Bearer hereof Capt. Joel<sup>215</sup> proposes to engage two others to undertake with himself an enterprize on the Enemy's fleet wherever it shall be collected in Harbour. As he requires only an old Vessell of the most worthless kind, and proper preparations for her, I think the object will justify the risk. So many Orders and Measures may be necessary in the detail of executing this Business that I cannot do better than to give a general sanction to it and ask the favor of yourself to have everything provided which he may think necessary to ensure Success. Rewards are expected on desperate undertakings of this kind, and tho not necessary to stimulate him may be necessary for his associates. I will therefore leave it to yourself to fix them previously, or to agree with the Gentlemen that they shall be referred to the Executive after the service shall have been performed.

<sup>215</sup>This was Captain B. Edgar Joel, several letters from whom are in the Virginia State archives referring to his plan but not giving a clear description of it. He was engaged in a desperate attempt to capture Arnold.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL CARRINGTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 26.)*Col<sup>o</sup> CarringtonRichmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 16. 1781.

Sir,

I have desired Col<sup>o</sup> Muter to have delivered to Maj<sup>r</sup> Caliborne such of the Articles applied for in your Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> as we have. We have no tents of any kind. Axes, Spades, Shovels and Padlocks can probably be furnished. We have sent to Fredericksburg for camp-kettles, which shall be forwarded as soon as they come.

I think a few days will probably determine the Enemy's ultimate designs as to us: in the mean time I do not wish to give any decisive orders as to the place of slaughtering the Provisions. The expenditure of Pork indeed at this Season must be forbidden. It shall be my endeavor to suffer this invasion to divert as little as possible of our Supplies for the Southern Army.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN MAXWELL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 28.)*

Captain Maxwell

January 16. 1781

Sir

I inclose you a plan for building portable Boats recommended from General Washington and shall be glad that you will take measures for having about twenty of them made without delay. I suppose it will be necessary for you to send out in quest of Workmen. Any such which can be engaged shall receive a hire according to the former hard money prices having reasonable attention to the late advances of Wages, to be paid in Tobacco at 20/p hundred or its value in paper. It would be more agreeable to have them built at this place unless you think convenience very considerably in favor of the Ship Yard. We have doubts whether this plan will suit for our broad rough waters or for transporting Waggon<sup>s</sup> at all: if you think it may be improved or a better suggested we shall be glad to confer with you on the Subject

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 29.)*

President of Congress

Richmond Jan<sup>y</sup> 17, 1781.

Sir

I do myself the honor of transmitting to you[r] Excellency a resolution of the Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly of this Commonwealth entered into in consequence of the resolution of Congress of the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1780, on the subject of the Confederation. I shall be rendered very happy if the other States of the Union, equally impressed with the necessity of that important convention, shall be willing to sacrifice to its completion. This single event, could it take place shortly would

overweigh every success which the Enemy have hitherto obtained and render desperate the hopes to which those successes have given birth.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 31.*)

To the honble Virg<sup>a</sup> Delegates in Congress

Richmond January 18, 1781

Gentlemen

I inclose you a resolution of assembly directing your conduct as to the navigation of the Mississippi. The loss of powder lately sustained by us (about 5 tons) together with the quantities sent on to the southward have reduced our stock very low indeed: we lent to Congress in the course of the last year previous to our issues for the Southern army about ten days ton of powder. I shall be obliged to you to procure an order from the board of war for any quantity from five to ten ton to be sent us immediately from Philadelphia or Baltimore and to enquire & hasten from time to time the execution of it. The stock of cartridge paper is nearly exhausted. I do not know whether captain Irish or what other officer should apply for this. It is essential that a good stock shou'd be forwarded & without a moments delay if there be a rock on which we are to split, it is the want of muskets, bayonets and cartouch-boxes. The occurrences since my last to the president are not of any magnitude. three little rencounters have happened with the enemy. In the first General Smallwood led on a party of two or three hundred militia and obliged some armed Vessels of the enemy to retire from a prize they had taken at Broadway and renewing his attack the next day with a 4 lb or two (for in the first day he had only muskets he obliged some of their vessels to fall down from City point to their main fleet at Westover. the enemy's loss is not known. Our men was four men wounded of the evening's during their encampment at Westover and Berkley their light horse surprized a party of about 100 to 150 militia at Cha<sup>s</sup> City court house killed and wounded four and took, as has been generally said about 7 or 8. on Baron Steuben's approach towards Hoods they embarked at Westover; the wind which 'till then had set directly up the river from the time of their leaving James town, shifted in the moment to the opposite point. Baron Steuben had not reached Hoods by 8 or 10 miles when they arrived there. they landed their whole army there in the night Arnold attending in person. Colo Clarke of Kaskaskies had been sent on with 240 by Baron Steuben, and having properly disposed of them in ambuscade, gave them a deliberate fire which killed 17 on the spot and wounded 17. they returned it in confusion, by which we had 3 or 4 wounded, and our party being so small and without bayonets, were obliged to retire on the enemy's charging with bayonets. They fell down to Cobham, from whence they carried all the tobacco there about (60 hhds) and the last intelligence was that on the 16th they were standing for Newports news. Baron Steuben is of opinion

they are proceeding to fix a post in some of the lower counties. Later information has given us reason to believe their force more considerable than we at first supposed. I think since the arrival of the three transports which had been separated in a storm, they may be considered as between 2000 and 2500 strong. Their naval force according to the best intelligence is the Charon of 44 guns, Commodore Symmonds; the Amphitrite, Iris, Thames and Charles Town frigates, the Fowey of 20 guns, two sloops of war, a privateer ship and 2 brigs. we have about 3700 militia embodied, but at present they are divided into three distant encampments: one under General Weedon, at Fredericksburg for the protection of the important works there; another under Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson at & near Williamsburg; & a third under Baron Steuben at Cabin point. As soon as the enemy fix themselves these will be brought to a point.<sup>216</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. WILLIAM SMITH.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 29.)

M<sup>r</sup> William Smith

Richmond January 18. 1781.

Sir

You will be pleased to proceed into the Country and engage eight good Gun-smiths and one good Blacksmith (a whiteman) to come immediately to work with M<sup>r</sup> Anderson in the repairs of Arms, Should you be able to find any good and faithful hands, who tho unwilling to come here would undertake to repair such Arms as should be sent to them, you will be pleased to engage them and to know what number of Arms we may send for the first Month, at the end of which they shall be sent for and others carried. In this case I think it necessary that some good Gentleman in the neighbourhood be applied to superintend their proceedings, to keep them to the public Work, and to report to us from time to time what progress they make; whether they do their work faithfully, and whether they do so much as to render it worth our while to continue to employ them. Those who come here should receive a liberal hard Money pay by the day. Those who undertake to repair at their own Shops shall be paid by the piece at the old hard Money prices, according to the rate of Exchange. It will be best for you to proceed first to Col<sup>o</sup> Wood at the Barracks, and get those he expected to furnish.

<sup>216</sup>This letter was, of course, very badly copied by Jefferson's clerk. In line 6, for instance, he put in the word "days"; and in line 22, "Our men was four men wounded of the evening's" is almost unintelligible. It should be, however, "Our loss was four men wounded in the evening's [fight]." There are other inaccuracies which need not be pointed out. The mistakes made by the clerk in this letter as elsewhere are not of any great importance, since they do not mislead the attentive reader. They are merely irritating.

Report of committee to whom the letter was referred will be found in "Journals of the Continental Congress," XIX, p. 147. For reply of the Virginia delegates to Gov. Jefferson, see "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 454.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JOHN WALKER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 30.*)

Mr. John Walker.

Jan 18

*Sir,*

Baron Steuben who commands the military force in this State on the present invasion, being very much unacquainted with its laws, customs resources and organization while he has hourly cause to apply to them has desired we will prevail on some gentlemen acquainted with these to be of his family to point his applications to the proper persons & places and to enable him to avail himself of our strength and resources searching about for such a place person we cast our eyes on you, and hope you will undertake the office. Whatever expences may be incurred by you on this occasion must be public & a proper compensation moreover be paid for time and trouble. These matters may be settled either before or after the service performed as you chuse. Your answer by the bearer and immediate attendance if possible will oblige sir.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CLAIBORNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 30.*)

Major Claiborne Continental D M G. [deputy quartermaster general]  
or any person acting by authority from him.

Richmond January 18. 1781.

*Sir,*

It being necessary to collect at Hoods as large a number of boats as possible to transport men and horses across the river as occasion may require, you are hereby authorized to impress all the boats on this and Chickahominy river except only one to be left at each ferry and except also such boats as from particular circumstances of which you are to judge in your discretion it wou'd be attended with very peculiar distress to take. care should be taken to distinguish every man's boat oars &c., and when no longer wanted for the public you will see that they be returned, taking receipts for them.

At a Council holden at the State- house in the Town of Richmond on  
Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1781.

Present

His Excellency Thomas Jefferson Esquire Governor:

David Jameson

George Webb &

Joseph Prentis

Jacquelin Ambler

Esquires.

The executive having been obliged to remove on account of the enemy's taking possession of the Town of Richm<sup>d</sup> on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant

& there not having been since a sufficient number of Members<sup>217</sup> attending to constitute a board until this day— His Excellency communicated his proceedings during the recess together with the Copies of the Letters which have passed between him & certain Persons which being read & approved the board directs to be registered, to wit. Letters to Baron Steuben of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> instant— to the President of Congress of the 10<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>— to His Excellency General Washington of the 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>— to Colo John Nicholas of the 10<sup>th</sup>— to General Wedon of the 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>— to M<sup>r</sup> James Hunter of the 10<sup>th</sup>— to Colo Wood of the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>— to General Nelson of the 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>— to Colo Sampson Matthews of the 12<sup>th</sup>— to Colo Senf of the 15<sup>th</sup>— to Colo George Rogers Clarke of the 13<sup>th</sup>— to Cornet Graves of the 13<sup>th</sup>— to Governor Lee of Maryland, of the 15<sup>th</sup>— to M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Wray of the 15<sup>th</sup>— to M<sup>r</sup> Charles Dick of the 15<sup>th</sup>— to the Honble the Virginia Delegates in Congress of the 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>— to Colo Pickering of the 15<sup>th</sup>— to M<sup>r</sup> William Smith of the 18<sup>th</sup>— to Colo Carrington of the 16<sup>th</sup>— to the President of the Continental Board of War of the 15<sup>th</sup>— to General Greene of the 16<sup>th</sup>— to Capt<sup>n</sup> Maxwell of the 16<sup>th</sup>— to Governor Nash & the President of North Carolina Board of War of the 16<sup>th</sup>. To the Person appointed to collect Workmen to rebuild the Public Shops of the 15<sup>th</sup>— Major Claiborne of the 18<sup>th</sup> & to M<sup>r</sup> John Walker of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

(Then follows a number of Warrants)

His Excellency laid before the board a Proclamation which he thought proper to be issued for the purpose of preventing the practice introduced by the British Forces of seizing peaceable Citizens & extorting from them Paroles unauthorized by the law of Nations and the same being read & approved, is as follows,

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS JEFFERSON esq<sup>r</sup> GOVERNOR  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

#### A PROCLAMATION

Whereas during the incursions which have been made into this and others of the United States, by the forces of his Britannick Majesty, a practice hath been introduced by them unauthorized by the law of nations and unattempted in any other age or by any other country of seizing peaceable citizens while in their beds or employed in domestick occupations, & extorting from them Paroles that they will not on a pain of life & fortune be aiding or assisting in any respect to the enemies of great Britain, which paroles such Citizens have given sometimes through ignorance and at other times with the wicked design while they enjoy all the benefits of Government, to shift from themselves their just share of its burthens, and it is even

<sup>217</sup>January 17th Dudley Digges wrote to Gov. Jefferson from Ruffins Ferry:

"I have this moment received your Letter requiring my attendance at Richmond. It gives me pain, that some days must elapse before I shall be able to attend where my duty & Inclination would certainly induce me to go. I am thus far on my way to Williamsburg to collect the scattered remains of my property, which was hastily distributed in such places as were deemed the most secure. When this business is effected, I shall without delay wait upon you at Richmond, and in the mean time, I have to hope that sufficient number of members may be found, to prevent any ill consequences." See "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 444.

believed that instances have not been wanting where they have voluntarily gone in to the enemy & tendered such Paroles, and the Laws of this Commonwealth not permitting any citizen thereof taken under such circumstances, or otherwise than when in arms by order of a proper Officer to enter into any engagements with the Public enemy which may withdraw from his Country those Duties he owes to it. To the end therefore that none may be induced to the like Act hereafter through ignorance of the law either real or pretended, and that all others whom it may concern, whether friends or foes, may be apprized of their nullity at the time of giving or taking such paroles or engagements, I have thought fit with the advice of the Council of State to issue this my Proclamation hereby declaring & making known that citizens taken or yielding themselves in the manner before described are incapable by law of contracting engagements which may cancel or supercede the duties they owe to their Country while remaining in it, and that notwithstanding such Paroles or engagements, they will be held to the performance of every service required by the Laws in like manner as if no such Parole or engagement had been entered into.

And whereas some citizens who may already have entered into such engagements may expect to withhold their Duties under Pretence of being bound in conscience notwithstanding their legal disabilities to contract them, and it is inconsistent with the spirit of our Laws and constitution to force tender consciences, I do therefore farther publish & declare that all Citizens taken or yielding themselves in the manner before described who conceive themselves under such conscientious obligation to refuse obedience to the laws of their Country, are hereby authorized and required, taking Passports as hereafter provided forthwith to repair to some of the posts, encampments or vessels of the forces of his Britannic Majesty, and by surrender of their persons to cancel such their engagements & thereafter to do as to themselves & those in whose power they shall be shall seem good save only that they shall not rejoin this Commonwealth but in a State of perfect emancipation from its enemies & of freedom to act as becomes good and zealous citizens and saving also their fidelity to the Commonwealth. And all Officers commanding forces either of this State or of the united states who shall be nearest in their position to the said Posts encampments or vessels of the enemy are hereby authorized and required paying necessary attention to times, situations & circumstances, to grant Passports to all such Citizens for the Purposes before mentioned.

Given under my hand & the Seal of the Commonwealth at Richmond, this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of January in the year of our Lord 1781, & of the Commonwealth the fifth.

(signed)

Thomas Jefferson.

His Excellency also, with the advice of the Council issued a Proclamation for laying an Embargo on Provisions until the end of the next Session of Assembly. (See *post.*)<sup>218</sup>

<sup>218</sup>The further proceedings of the Council at that meeting are as follows:  
The Manager of the Lead Mines is directed to send to Richmond immediately



# PROCLAMATION LAYING AN EMBARGO ON EXPORTATION OF PROVISIONS.

(From the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 444.)

By his Excellency Thoms Jefferson Esq Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

## A PROCLAMATION <sup>218a</sup>

Whereas the exportation of Provisions from this State will be attended with manifest injury to the United States by supplying the Enemy and by rendering it difficult for the public Agents and Contractors to procure supplies for the American troops, and will moreover give encouragement to engrossers and monopolisers to prosecute their baneful practices, I have therefore thought fit by and with the advice and consent of the Council of State, to issue this my proclamation for laying an Embargo on Provisions. And I do hereby lay an Embargo on Provisions, viz— on all Beef, Pork, Bacon, Wheat,

all the lead he has on hand notwithstanding any former order for one half to be sent to the Southern Army.

The Board advise that Mr Brown, Commissioner of the Provision law, be instructed to give orders to this Deputies in the several Senatorial Districts to call on the owners of all Waggon, teams & drivers, and of all Vessels for river transportation with their Navigators within the same to register with them their said Waggon, teams & drivers, Vessels & Crews, to divide the said Waggon into brigades of ten each and the Vessels as may be most expedient, appointing some trusty Person to act as Master of the brigade when called into service: that whenever it shall be necessary to impress within their District any Waggon, teams & drivers Vessels & Navigators they call forth the said Brigades in regular rotation; and assure the people that so long as they continue to bring their waggons or Vessels into service when required they shall not be required but in regular rotation: that if any owner shall fail to send his waggon or Vessel when called on, it shall be subject to perform a double tour of Duty—that the value of every Waggon, team & gear & of every Vessel be ascertained by appraisement as directed by law and a hire of fifty pounds of tobacco by the day be allowed for the Waggon teams & drive besides their being found forage & provisions & a reasonable hire for the Vessels & Navigators—that regular account be kept by each Deputy of the Debts to be contracted and that he apply for the same to the Executive once in every six months. that Persons who shall conceal or fail to register their waggons or vessels within a reasonable time to be fixed & published by the Deputy shall not have the benefit of the public protection from impresses which will accrue to those registered and that particularly all distant services be thrown on such waggons and Vessels without any regard to turn or proportion.

That Mr. Brown further instruct his said Deputies to deliver to the Continental Store Keepers within his District the Articles of Provision and forage which he shall be directed to procure using the Waggon & Vessels of his District for transporting them to the Stores; and that whenever the Deputies of the Continental Quarter Master shall be unable otherwise to transport the said Articles from Post to Post, he aid them with the Waggon & Vessels of his District as before directed.

An exemplification of Colo George Rogers Clarke's Commission of the 2<sup>d</sup> of January 1778 issued today.

<sup>218a</sup>This proclamation laying an embargo on the exportation of provisions, or a similar one, was issued frequently in the course of the war. It was issued first by Gov. Henry (see p. 320 of Vol. I of the "Official Letters of the Governors of the State of Virginia.") The first issue by Jefferson is dated the 30th of November, 1779 (see p. 72 of this volume). It was frequently inserted in the "Virginia Gazette." An examination of a not absolutely complete file of the "Gazette" in the Virginia State Library for 1780 and 1781 shows the following insertions: May 31 and July 26, 1780; and Feb. 3 and 17, March 31, and April 7 and 14, 1781.



Indian Corn, Pease, or other Grain, or flour, or meal made of the same; to continue until the end of the next session of the Assembly. And I do hereby strictly prohibit all mariners, masters and Commanders of Vessels and all persons whatsoever within this State, from loading on board any Vessel for exportation, and from exporting all or any of the above species of provisions by Land or Water, from the date hereof, during the term aforesaid, under pain of incurring the penalties inflicted by the Act Assembly entitled "An Act to empower the Governor and Council to lay an embargo for a limited time" except as in the said Act is excepted. And I do hereby strictly charge and command all naval officers and others in their respective departments, to exert their best endeavors, to the end that this embargo be strictly observed.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 1781.

TH: JEFFERSON

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 44.*)

A Circular Letter to the County Lieutenants.

In Council January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sirs*

The invasion of our Country by the enemy at the Close of the last Session of Assembly their pushing immediately to this Place the Dispersion of the Public Papers which for the purpose of saving them necessarily took place and the injury done at the printing Office have been so many Causes operating unfortunately to the Delay of transmitting you those Acts of Assembly which required immediate execution. The principal of these the Law for recruiting the Army having been framed on the Idea that the Militia of the several Counties would be in quiet at Home has been peculiarly retarded by the necessity we were under of calling Militia from almost every County. We have seized the earliest moment possible for discharging those of as many Counties as could be, in order that this important Law may be put into a Course of execution. It is now inclosed to you. Your Duty till the new Levies shall be ready to march from the County being precisely pointed out by the Act. I shall take up the Subject from that Period only. New London, Staunton, Winchester, Fredericksburg and Chesterfield Courthouse are appointed for the rendezvous of the Levies. You are at Liberty to send them to any of these Places, but as they are ultimately to proceed to Chesterfield Courthouse I would recommend to you to consider this in your Choice of rendezvous. At each of these Pleases [places] an Officer will attend from the tenth Day of March next for the Purpose of receiving them. You will send them under the Charge of an Officer who being enabled by the Act itself to provide means of Transportation is hereby authorized to apply for Subsistence to any Commissary Commissioner or other Person, Principal or Subordinate having Public Provisions in their Possession and on Failure to obtain a Sufficiency in that way he is to impress it, giving certificates to the Persons from whom he shall impress it and returning to the Auditors

a List of such Certificates specifying the Party's Name, Article, Price and Date. Let this Officer be furnished with a proper Certificate from you that he is appointed to this Duty which he is to send to the Auditors with his list that they may be satisfied with his authority. I inclose you two blank Calendars in which you will insert the Names and Descriptions of your Levies delivered to the Officer who will be appointed by us to receive them as directed by the Act of Assembly; the one of these he will sign and leave as a Voucher to you, the other should be signed by yourself or the Officer delivering the men for you and left in the Hands of the receiving Officer. On the close of your Draught I must desire a return of your Militia and as the Law obliges the Captains to make exact returns to you at every General Muster, I am to require that from these you make always an exact return to the Executive, that we may have a constant knowledge of the actual Strength of your Militia. Notwithstanding the Requisition I made you six Months ago, for a Return of your Militia, you have not been pleased to comply with it, an Inattention which cannot be justified on any principle of military Subordination and which cannot again pass unnoticed. A very dangerous Practice having been introduced by the enemy of laying under Paroles the whole country through which they are at any Time able to march and thereby attempting to disarm its future Opposition, has rendered it necessary for Government to take up and reprobate the Idea that any Citizen may thus cancel his Duties to his Country. I inclose you a number of Proclamations on this Subject, and desire that you will put one into the Hand of every Captain in your County with orders to read it at the Head of His Company at every private Muster during the present Year.

Such is the present Aspect of the enemy towards this Country that no Foresight can predict the moment at which your Militia will be called into active Duty. Let me exhort you therefore and through you your Officers and men to consider that moment as if now come that every man who has or can procure a Gun have it instantly put into the best order a Bayonet fitted to it, a Bayonet belt, Cartouch Box, Canteen with its Strap, Tomahawk, Blanket and knapsack. Some of these Articles are necessary for his own safety and some for his Health and Comfort. The constant exhausture of the Public Stock of these Articles by Calls from all Quarters renders it vain for the militia to expect to be supplied from thence when they come into the Field and nothing is so easy as for every Man to have them prepared while quiet and at Home. The Cartouch, Box with a leathern Flap a wooden Canteen with its Strap and a knapsack of thick Linen (the better if paid) are what may be had in almost any mans Family and there are few neighbourhoods which do not afford Artificers equal to the Repair of a Firelock and furnishing it with a Bayonet. Let me then again entreat you Sir not only to give out in General Orders to your Captains that these Preparations be instantly made but see your self as far as possible that your orders be carried into execution. The Soldiers themselves will thank you when separated from domestick Accommodation they find through your Attention to their Happiness provided with Conveniences which will administer to their first Wants. When you order

them into Service it will be proper that you order them to bring these Things with Them. Consider also the sending a waggon with every seventy five men as a standing rule and that the Officer who attends to lay in Provisions for the men on the road always return to the Auditors a list of the Certificates he gives stating the name Article Price and Date in separate Columns. These are Circumstances always necessary and as in the first hurry of an Invasion when it is necessary to write an infinity of Letters and give a Multiplicity of orders, it is not practicable then to enter into these Details, I wish now to lay them down to you as standing rules which may save the necessity of repeating them in future on every special Occasion. I must request you to make diligent enquiry and Search your county for any Public Arms or Accoutrements in the Hands of Individuals to collect them together and make report of them to me.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 42.*)

The Baron Steuben

Richmond January 19<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

A warrant was yesterday made out for M<sup>r</sup> Harrison<sup>219</sup> for two hundred thousand Dollars and I shall take the first opportunity of informing him that the money is in readiness. This is in consequence of your requisition communicated by Major Walker. D<sup>r</sup> Evans the Bearer of your Letter will receive from the Gentleman who has the care of our Medicine whatever articles can be furnished from that Stock. it is a very imperfect Collection. Immediately on receiving the communication from you by Major Walker that you would wish such a Person as you therein described to be with you I laid it before the Council. We concluded to propose to M<sup>r</sup> Walker (late one of our Delegates) to accept of this Office having once been a member of the Council he is not unacquainted with our Arrangements. I sent to him by express and shall hope an answer very shortly. I sincerely wish he may consent to undertake it as I am satisfied he can save you much Trouble. Should he decline it I apprehend it not easy to find another who will be of real use to you. None of the militia with Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon (except from the Counties of Rockbridge, Augusta, Rockingham and Shenandoah) were of the Counties intended to be kept in the Field. I thought it necessary to mention this Circumstance to you as you might perhaps think proper to discharge them before they join Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson. I have the Honour to be with great Respect and esteem

<sup>219</sup>Benjamin Harrison, jr., deputy paymaster general (Continental).

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MANAGER OF LEAD MINES (COL. JAMES CALLAWAY).

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 43.*)

To the Manager of the Lead Mines

Richmond January 19<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

The Invasion of this State calling for an immediate and large Supply of Lead, be pleased to send us immediately all the Lead you have on Hand, notwithstanding my former Direction to let one half go to the Southward Army with which on the present Occasion we must dispense. The Bearer M<sup>r</sup> Tate<sup>220</sup> is sent to see this Service performed. The Money for paying the Waggonage not being ready at this moment and it being improper to detain him that shall follow before the Services are completed.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 43.*)

The Baron Steuben

Richmond January 19<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir

Shirts had been ordered for Col<sup>o</sup> Armands Corps on your former requisitions, these I believe are ready. They are ordered to be delivered to Major Lomagne<sup>221</sup> order. We have not a single Article of the others enumerated in his List of Necessaries wanted. We could therefore only undertake to him to furnish money to the Continental Quarter Master or any other proper Person to procure them. if this mode should be approved this or any other Assistance we can give shall be afforded. The Practice introduced by the enemy of laying the Country through which they pass under Parole is so mischievous that I have thought it necessary to issue the Proclamation of which I inclose you a Copy. I have the Honour to be with the greatest esteem

Sir

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

(*From the Draper Papers, Wisconsin Historical Society Library, 51J16.*)

Richmond Jan. 20. 1781

Sir

I think every paper is now ready for you. they shall be delivered to you tomorrow morning if you will be so good as to call on me. I expect Colo Gibson<sup>222</sup> here tomorrow. would you think it worth your while to stay a day to see him?

<sup>220</sup>Probably James Tate, killed at Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781.

<sup>221</sup>Jean Baptiste Lomagne, Viscount, captain 3d cavalry, Pulaski Legion, 1778; major, April 11, 1781; retired 24th September, 1781.

<sup>222</sup>Col. John Gibson.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 48.*)

In Council January 20. 1781.

Sir,

Having Cause to entertain Doubts from several Letters transmitted to me whether M<sup>r</sup> John Dodge<sup>223</sup> who was appointed to conduct a Commerce with the Indians on Behalf of this state had not been Guilty of a gross Misapplication or Mismanagement of what has been confided to him and the Distance between him and us rendering it impracticable to call the examination before ourselves, you are hereby authorised and desired either by yourself or such Persons as you shall appoint to enquire into any part of his Conduct which you may have reason to suppose unjustifiable and if it be found so to remove him from his Office and take such measures as may be most effectual for bringing him to account and indemnifying the Public against such Malversations. Should he be removed we think it unnecessary to appoint another in his Stead.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL LYNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 49.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Lyne

In Council January 20<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Considering the Public liable to pay Storage for the Articles mentioned in your Letter this of Course puts the Business of receiving and delivering on the Keeper of the Store. As Rum may be had below I shall hope Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson will be able to procure there for his Troops. Rum is wanted in this Quarter and after being brought so far it would seem bad Management to send it down again. Provisions may be delivered for the use of any Troops embodied or marching but the other articles to be forwarded here as we agreed when you were with us. I should think it prudent to send your Waggon in Brigades and to appoint a trusty Waggon master.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY MAGISTRATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781 p. 47.*)

To the First Magistrate in each County

In Council, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sirs

The Invasion of our country by the enemy at the Close of the late Session of Assembly their pushing immediately to this Place the Dispersion of the Public Papers which for the Purpose of saving them

<sup>223</sup>A man of varied adventures and of undoubted influence with the Indians but of questionable character. See Thwaites and Kellogg, "Revolution on the Upper Ohio," p. 143.

necessarily took Place and the Injury done at the Printing Office have been so many Causes operating unfortunately to the Delay of transmitting you the important Act which I now inclose you. In the mean Time the Days of Execution so far advanced that I am persuaded they must have passed over before it can be received in many Counties; in this Case the only possible Measure to be advised is to adopt the earliest Days possible. Could any legal Scruples arise as to this there could be no Doubt that the ensuing Assembly influenced by the Necessity which induced them to press the Act would give their Sanction to it's Execution though at a later Date than is prescribed. However the Substance of the Act is to procure Supplies of Beef Cloathing and Waggon. The Time of doing this is a Circumstance only and the Principle is sound both in Law and Policy that Substance not Circumstance is to be regarded while we have so many Foes in our bowels and environing us on every Side he is a bad Citizen who can entertain a Doubt whether the Law will justify him in saving his Country or who will scruple to risk himself in Support of the Spirit of a Law where unavoidable Accidents have prevented a literal Compliance with it. Let me exhort you Sirs therefore should this Act come to Hand so late as to prevent your proceeding to its Execution by the Time prescribed to have it executed as early as possible. No Man can say this will be an injury to him because the Times were affixed to compel an early compliance. The delay of which some Days must rather be matter [for] Indulgence. Persons will be appointed to receive the Waggon & Appendages to be furnished by your County who shall give you Notice of the Place of Delivery in due time.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL NELSON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 49.)*

General Nelson

In Council January 20<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Dear General—*

I will send to M<sup>r</sup> Brown the Commissary the Paragraph from your Letter relative to Provisions with orders for him to take measures for Relief. At the same time I wish the Principal expenditures could be in Indian meal that the Flower might be kept as much as possible for the Summer's use. Maj<sup>r</sup> Hollier has no authority to make exchange Prisoners with the enemy, the enclosed Proclamation will shew you the Principles on which will be approved to wit that a Citizen shall be considered as a Soldier if he were taken in arms, embodied as a Soldier, and acting under the Command of his Officer. You will perceive that these Circumstances are necessary to distinguish from a Citizen engaged in his domestic or other Occupations. Any equal exchange made on these Principles and approved of by yourself shall be considered as valid.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 450.)

Jan. 20, 1781

The Board are of opinion that M<sup>r</sup> Math: Anderson's Shop should be discontinued—and that he be engaged to work for the public at the old prices, to be paid in provisions.

The discontinuance of the public store, by Act of Assembly, cuts short all questions about furnishing clothing.<sup>224</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 450.)

Jan. 20, 1781.

The Board approve of employing Capt: Irish as herein proposed, and will allow five shillings a day old money, to be discharged in the present money according to the price of tobacco formerly @ 20.s. the hundred, and its price at the time of payment, as settled by the last preceeding valuation of the grand-jury. they will allow an assistant, who being of the military line, shall have an additional allowance of four shillings by the day, to be paid in the same way. They are of opinion that Capt Spiller, should for the time he served have the allowance, herein before settled for Capt: Irish.<sup>225</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL CLARK.

(From "*Illinois Historical Collections*," VIII, 500.)

In Council Jan. 22, 1781.

Sir

I do myself the pleasure of inclosing you a Brigadier General's commission the laws having given us power to appoint a general officer only for special purposes and not a perpetual one, has obliged us to express the particular occasion of the appointment. besides this I thought it necessary to give you an exemplification of your former commission which was perpetual.

I wish you in every circumstance all possible success & felicity,

<sup>224</sup>This letter is written on back of letter from Col. Muter to Governor Jefferson in reference to retention of Mr. Mathew Anderson as conductor of the shoe-manufactory. Of course, "the Board" was the Council. Jefferson usually referred to the Council by that term.

<sup>225</sup>This letter, too, is written on back of letter from Col. Muter. Col. Muter this time was writing about the employment of Captain Irish, a Continental commissary, as a State commissary for a time till permanent arrangements could be made.

## A PROCLAMATION.

*(From the Virginia Gazette for Feb. 3, 1781.)*

By his Excellency THOMAS JEFFERSON, Esq; Governour of the  
commonwealth of Virginia.

## A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it is become necessary that the General Assembly be called together before the time to which they stand adjourned; I have therefore thought fit with the advice of the Council of State, to issue this my proclamation, hereby appointing the first day of March next for the meeting of the said General Assembly, at which time their attendance is required at the Capitol in the town of Richmond.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the commonwealth at Richmond aforesaid, this 23d day of January, in the year our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty One, and of this commonwealth the fifth

THOMAS JEFFERSON

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 50.)*

In Council January 23d, 1781.

*Sir*

I am sorry after so long and laborious a session of Assembly, the Public exigencies should be such as to call for an earlier meeting of the members than was intended. A Proclamation has been this Day issued for convening you on the first of March, and tho' that alone was necessary in point of Formality, I could not deny myself the apprising you by Letter of those Circumstances which have rendered the measure necessary and which could not with Propriety be explained in the Public Proclamation. Such is the Load of Public Debt contracted by Certificates, and such the Preparations necessary for the Summer to enable us to meet our enemies in the North, South, East and West, that before any considerable Progress was made in paying the past and providing for the future, the whole Sums allowed to be emitted were engaged. It became a matter of Certainty that in a few Days we should be unable to move an express, repair an Arm or do any other the smallest Thing, tho the existence of the State should depend on it for want of money. It was impossible to think of hazarding the State in this Condition through the months of February March April and probably May while we have an enemy within our Country and others approaching it on every side. Information also from the General Officers brought us assurance that our Defence could not be rested on militia. Not to mention other Circumstances, such we are assured is become their Impatience already, that they would give any consideration to raise Regulars rather than be kept in Service themselves. Tho' the



Commanding Officer has determined to reduce them to 2900 Infantry there will be considerable Difficulty in keeping that Number in the Field. Men and Money therefore will be the Subject of your Deliberations. I make no doubt but some legislative Aid may also be rendered necessary for securing the executions of the Acts for recruiting men and procuring Beef Cloathing and Waggon. The absence of the Militia from their Counties has thrown very great Obstacle into the way of the former and the latter was ingrafted on that as its Stock. The Destruction of one of the Printing Presses and the injury done the other has delayed the printing the latter act with the other Papers necessary to be sent out till it is become certain the Days of setting them into a train of execution will be past before it will be received. The Zealous Citizen unable to Do his Duty so soon as was prescribed will do it as soon as he can, but the unwilling will find much room for objection which the authority of the Legislative alone will be able to remove. Not apprehending that the Assembly when convened at so unusual a Season will propose to go on general Business, I have reason to hope that you will be detained here a very few Days only. Besides the general *Dispatch* which will ensure your punctual Attendance on the Day appointed let me adjure it on the Ground of the Public Distress which will accumulate in the most rapid Progression should the meeting be delayed by Failure of the members to attend.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 454.)

Jan. 23, 1781.

We know not how guns come to be wanting for the Jefferson. as to the others we consider the repairing the Foundry, rebuilding the moulding house, & the boring mill (on a more simple plan) as works to be executed as soon as possible. are there not some nine pounders on the Eastern Shore belonging to the State?<sup>226</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 457.)

Jan. 23, 1781.

The Board have no objection to fixing the price of tob<sup>o</sup> to be paid in rent, at the market price here, instead of the price settled by the Grand Jury, only taking care that the values [valuers] be apprised of the circumstances. They agree also to leave the house in the Condition it now is. The case of Thos: Reynolds seems worthy of consideration. Will Col: Muter be pleased to take & communicate to us, authentic information of the facts.<sup>227</sup>

<sup>226</sup>This is also written on back of a letter from Col. Muter, in reference to the want of ordnance. When Jefferson uses the pronoun "we" in these letters issuing from the Council chamber, he is referring to the members of the Council and himself.

<sup>227</sup>This is reply to letter from Colonel Muter on several subjects—written on back of Col. Muter's letter.

Thos. Reynolds was a workman who had been captured by the British in the late invasion and paroled.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

*(From "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 460.)*

Jan. 24, 1781

The Board approve of building the moulding house & boring mill on contract. a water wheel & shaft for boring a single gun at a time will suffice: the shaft being made capable of having a cog-wheel put to it whenever we shall carry on the business to such extent as to require more than one bore. It will be well to avoid agreeing to advance any of the money, or as little as possible. we are of opinion the negroes should be hired if practical for reasonable hire. as many armourers as can be received into the shop here should be lodged in log huts to be built here, all other should have log huts for lodging & working built at the Foundry. <sup>228</sup> — — —

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR JOHN WINSTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 54.)*Richmond January 25<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am very sorry that your Militia by different Orders from a Succession of Persons should have been harrassed with marches to so little purpose. it was not intended by us that they should be called on at all. When I learnt however that they were come into Duty & were at Hanover Courthouse, I thought it best for them to join & remain with General Nelson till he should receive the Militia of those Counties meant to be retained in Service. As I expect Baron Steuben the Commander in chief to be here to Day or tomorrow, I do not chuse to give you any other order but to remain where you are until I shall have consulted with him and determined what you are to do, so as to save you any further unnecessary marching. As soon as this shall be settled between us I will send you orders by express.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL NELSON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 52.)*

General Nelson

Richmond January 25<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I gave orders to M<sup>r</sup> Brown to send you a Sufficiency of Flour to fill up any Intervals which might happen between your Supplies of indian meal. We think the Stands of Arms you have directed to be purchased at Baltimore are a great Bargain if they be really good and will certainly find means of paying for them. The Corn at Cumberland was Continental Property having been delivered to Col<sup>o</sup> Finnie long ago. On the present invasion we had that with other Public Stores moved up to New Castle as a Place of greater Safety. The other Stores indeed we meant to withdraw to other Places: but

<sup>228</sup> This is a reply to a letter from Colonel Muter on several subjects—written on back of Col. Muter's letter.

not the corn. However I learn that our Quarter Master has in his distress for that Article been obliged to send for some of it for his Horses here, and we have lately ordered a considerable Number of Public Horses too poor for Service, to be carried and fattened there; by which means we shall save so much of it to the Continent. We have determined to convene the Assembly on the first Day of March. The Printer will enable us to send out the Laws which require immediate Execution this week. I make no Doubt but by that Time you will have received either from their Counties or from Baron Steuben so many of the Militia meant to be retained as will enable you to discharge the others. Indeed the Baron Steuben means to reduce the number originally intended to 2,700 Infantry which will enable him to send back those of a greater Number of Counties. With Respect to the Paroled Men my sentiments are these. Had I unwarily entered into an Engagement of which the Laws of my Country would not permit me to fulfill I should certainly deliver myself to the enemy to cancel that engagement and free my personal Honour from Imputation. Nevertheless if any of them chuse to remain and to perform freely all legal Duties, I do not know that Government is bound to send these people in to the Enemy. It is very different from the Case of a military Officer breaking his Parole, who ought ever to be sent in. We deny the propriety of their taking Paroles from unarmed farmers. But as in any event the only justifiable Punishment of a Breach of Parole is Confinement, so should the enemy hang a single man for this Cause, we will instantly retaliate by hanging their Prisoners in equal number. this may be declared to the paroled men who you say are ready to take Arms. M<sup>r</sup> Granville Smith received yesterday a warrant for £20,000 for the contingent expences of your Camp, to be called out only on your order. As the money Press is not yet at work it will be some Days before he will get it.

P. S. M<sup>r</sup> Brown just informs us of your Application for Spirits, there is not a Hogshead belonging to the State, but very great Quantities in the Hands of the Continental Commissaries. I have special Returns of upwards of twenty thousand Gallons delivered them by the Commissioners of the Provision Law, and no Doubt great quantities of which there is no return. As on actual invasions all reasonable expences are Continental, you are undoubtedly authorized to call on their Commissaries or should you have a Doubt Baron Steuben will clear it up. A M<sup>r</sup> Lyon one of those Commissaries at York can certainly supply you. I would observe to you that Baron Steuben informed me in Conversation that Spirit would be not allowed as a Part of the Daily rations but only on particular Occasions.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 55.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> William Davies

Richmond January 26<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

As for the outer Clothing for the Soldiers there is no early Prospect but from the 1495 yards of Cloth sent you some Time ago. We pur-

chased 100 or 150 Blankets and 400 Pair of Stockings of M<sup>r</sup> Ross whom I desired in Presence of an Aid of Baron Steuben's to deliver them to the Order of the Baron. And the aid (Major Walker) promised to notify the Baron of this. There are some Blankets (perhaps 100) included in a Purchase from M<sup>r</sup> Braxton not yet come from York River, they shall be sent you. M<sup>r</sup> Armistead will deliver to your order as much Linen as will shirt all your men if you can have it made up. Four hundred Shirts have been lately provided by M<sup>r</sup> Duncan Rose on Application from Baron Steuben. These should be first applied. M<sup>r</sup> Armistead has about 100 <sup>prs</sup> of Shoes here which he will deliver you and being offered 100 <sup>pr</sup> at Petersburg he is sending an Agent to make the Purchase who will call on you on his return and let you know where they lie. We expect a Couple of Waggons from Charlottesville with Leather. if you will let me know in Time what may suffice for mending Shoes, we will endeavour to spare it. M<sup>r</sup> Armistead has now some sole Leather which he will deliver you. I should suppose the shreds which might be saved by the Taylors would go far towards mending Cloaths however it would be economy even to cut from the Pieces of the cloth for this Purpose. Oznaburgs and Thread for the Same Purpose shall be furnished you whenever you chuse to send for it. I join you in disapproving the Issues of Cloathing by Piece meal and wish it remedied as far as our Circumstances will admit. If you will state the sum of money which will do to keep your Taylors in Spirits we will endeavour to have it furnished as soon as the Printer can resume the operation of emitting.

Cloathing which according to what precedes you either have or May have.

400 Suits of outer Cloathing (being the 1495 Yards of Cloth sent you)

400 Shirts from Petersburg what is deficient from hence.

100 p<sup>r</sup> of Shoes from Petersburg

100 p<sup>r</sup> D<sup>o</sup> from hence.

400 p<sup>r</sup> Stockings from M<sup>r</sup> Ross

from 200 to 300 blankets part now at Petersburg the Rest at

York River,

Leather

Oznabrigs thread for mending from hence.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 54.*)

Virginia Delegates in Congress.

Richmond, January 26th, 1781.

Gentlemen

I shall now beg leave to answer your Letter of the first inst which inclosed a Paper from Baron de Arendt. M<sup>r</sup> William Lee was some Time ago invested with a special Agency from this State, having received however no instructions from him of his having engaged any other Person to transact any Part of it, we are uninformed as to his



Stipulations with the Baron de Arendt. If he has left the particular one for twenty five Louis unfulfilled we think ourselves bound to discharge which we will do in such Sum of paper money as may purchase that quantity of hard money in Philadelphia for there being no hard money here there is no fixed exchange. If you will therefore settle this Sum with him we will make the Remittance either in Money or by answering a Bill or otherwise as shall be most practicable. After a variety of Trials to effect the cloathing of our Troops and procuring of military Stores and failing in them all a particular Institution has been adopted here for those Purposes, into this Channel all our means must be turned to enable it to be effectual. Our Situation is too well known to suppose we have any thing to spare. It is therefore not in our Power to enter into the Commerce with Prussia proposed by the Baron de Arendt however desirous we are of opening a Communication with that respectable State and willing under every other Circumstance to effect it by great Sacrifices were Sacrifices necessary. Should the Subject of Prussia chuse to adventure on Private Trade with our Citizens every Facility and encouragement in our Power will be certainly afforded. As the Speaker Harrison sets out within three or four Days for Philadelphia and can so much more fully explain to you by words the Steps taken for supporting our Opposition to the common enemy, I shall decline answering that Paragraph of your Letter and beg leave to refer you to him.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

*(From Papers of the Board of Trade.)*

In Council Jan. 29, 1781

Sir,

The habitual drunkenness of Col<sup>o</sup> Warneck rendering him in the opinion of the board unfit to be longer trusted with execution of the duties of an engineer should he chuse (on your intimating this to him) to resign, the board are dispose [d] to give him what assistance they may justifiably. otherwise it becomes necessary that you take proper measures for trying him by a proper court in order to reduce him.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 60.)*

Baron Steuben—

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1781

Sir,

I send you below a list of the counties which were called on to make a part of the 4000 men for this invasion, tho' they were called into the feild on the last invasion also. As your reduction of the 4000 to 2700 will enable you to discharge some of those Counties, I think it would be best that these below mentioned should be first discharged.

|           |           |          |           |              |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Amherst   | Fluvanna  | Powhatan | Brunswick | Chesterfield |
| Albemarle | Goochland | Amelia   | Dinwiddie | Henrico      |

Note—Rockbridge Augusta & Rockingham were also called down on the former invasion: but I apprehend it will not be proper to discharge them.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 57.*)

To the Honourable Benjamin Harrison.

Richmond January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Several matters of Public Importance resting on the Hands of the Executive to be transacted to the Northward we beg Leave to avail ourselves of your Journey thither to get them settled being satisfied they may be much better done on your verbal representations than by anything which may go in writing from us. The Trade has been carried on to a very small extent between this State and the Bermuda Islands. this was begun under a resolution of Congress permitting the exportation of a certain Quantity of Corn from this State to Bermuda. We required the Bermudians to come for it and to bring a bushel of Salt in exchange for every two of Corn. Our Distress for Corn [salt] increasing we continued the License and in the last Summer gave three Bushels of Corn for one of Salt. Some Tobacco also was allowed in exchange, but few vessels (I think not more than half a dozen have come on that Business, whether the number may increase or not I cannot say, but I think the Trade necessary and could wish it's Continuance without Umbrage to Congress or the French minister. A Trade with vessels reporting themselves as from neutral Ports but in truth as we believe from Ireland has also been winked at. This is more exceptionable on the part of the States and their Allies and less advantageous to us. We have indeed received occasional Supplies of Cloathing from them, but we might have bought on nearly as good Terms in America and thereby avoided risking the mischiefs which may attend the Permission of Irish Importations. Should our Commercial Agent be successful in his endeavours to supply our future Public wants. This powerful reason for tolerating the Trade will be removed. There will then remain no other Inducement to it, but as it will increase the quantity of goods imported into the State, but whether the Advantage be great or small we will willingly place this Commerce on whatever general Footing shall be thought requisite for the Good of the States & their Allies.

The removal of the Convention Troops was determined on by the Executive on the invasion of this State which took Place in the last Fall and was effected as to the British Division about 800 in Number. The Germans 1400 in Number being thought less dangerous were permitted to remain till Accommodations could be provided for them in Maryland. Congress having afterwards directed that they should not be removed and our Assembly that they should, the Executive are placed in a very disagreeable Situation, we can order them to the Banks of Potowmac, but our Authority will not land them on the opposite Shore. Besides prohibiting the removal of those remaining

here they have required us to furnish half the Provisions for those gone to Maryland. I beg leave to refer you to my Letters to the Board of War and to Governor Lee on this subject a Copy of which is furnished you from whence you will see the grounds on which I have remonstrated against this latter Requisition and on which I should have remonstrated against the former also but that I wished to avail myself of your more forcible representation in Person.

A M<sup>r</sup> Patoun of Baltimore sent us some Cartridge Boxes, they were brought in a vessel of M<sup>r</sup> Braxtons to Annapolis, where the vessel being sold they were left and I have heard of nothing of them since. I must beg the Favour of you to get them brought on if possible. Any Supply of the same Article as also of Cartridge Paper and Flints which the Board of war can send on are essentially wanting.

Peret & C<sup>o</sup> of France sent us a quantity of Stores in a vessel called Le Comite she was taken on her Passage retaken and carried into Rhode Island where on Condemnation the one Half of our Part of her Cargoe has been decreed to us. I take the Liberty of putting into your Hands the Papers on this Subject. Our Delegates have been endeavouring to have them brought on but hitherto without Effect. The Salt indeed had better be sold there, but the Arms, Clothing and other Articles are so much wanting that we should be much obliged to you to adopt an effectual mode of having them brought hither immediately either by hiring a trusty Agent to go and bring them in waggons attending them himself, or in any other way you find most practicable and expedient. Congress being considerably indebted to us in the Article of Powder I lately wrote to desire from five to ten Tons to be sent to this Place, it is essentially necessary that we send four tons more to Fort Pitt and that it be there by the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of March. the State with which you are furnished of our Advances of Powder to the Continent will inform you how far we have a right to make this Call. I must trouble you to procure from them at Baltimore if possible and if not then at Philadelphia the four Tons before mentioned and to send them under a trusty Person in waggons to Fort Pitt to be delivered to the Order of Col<sup>o</sup> Clarke or other Person acting under him the Residue or as much of it as can be got should be brought here at Continental Expence.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO BENJAMIN HARRISON.

*(From the Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.)*

*Note*—The following important document is written in Jefferson's own hand. It is not signed, but it is endorsed: Lre/Speaker Harrison/ Jan: 29, 1781. It is taken to be the state (statement) referred to by Jefferson in his letter to Harrison printed just above (see second sentence from the last). Colonel Harrison evidently, after making such use of it as he wished on his mission to Congress, brought it back to Richmond and deposited it among the papers of the House of Delegates.

| 1. How many arms have we in the state fit for service, bayonets &c.?   | <table><tr><th>Muskets in good repair</th><th>Muskets out of repair</th><th>Bayonets fitted</th><th>Cartouch boxes</th></tr><tr><td>68</td><td>2273</td><td>159</td><td>161</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">In the magazines.....<br/>In hands of the troops embodd (to be ret'd to magazine).....<br/>Dispers'd in counties much exposed...</td></tr><tr><td>3315</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> |                 |                |        | Muskets in good repair | Muskets out of repair | Bayonets fitted | Cartouch boxes | 68        | 2273     | 159       | 161   | In the magazines.....<br>In hands of the troops embodd (to be ret'd to magazine).....<br>Dispers'd in counties much exposed... |       |        |        | 3315   |        |        |  |
|--|--|-----------------|----------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|--|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| Muskets in good repair   | Muskets out of repair  | Bayonets fitted | Cartouch boxes |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
| 68   | 2273   | 159             | 161            |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
| In the magazines.....<br>In hands of the troops embodd (to be ret'd to magazine).....<br>Dispers'd in counties much exposed... |  |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
| 3315   |  |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
| 2. How many have we lent N. Carolina since the war, how many since the invasion of S. Carolina.                                | This shall be answered under Qu. 4. because we consider what have been sent Southwardly as sent into Continental service.  |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
| 3. What stock of ammunition & military stores of all kinds have we in hand? With what has N. Carolina been furnished?          | Return of powder in the States magazines Nov. 20, 1780.  |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
|  | <table><tr><th>Musket</th><th>Canon</th><th>Uncertain which</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>17,900lbs</td><td>16,200lbs</td><td>6,419lbs</td><td>40,519lbs</td></tr><tr><td>3,980</td><td>3,000</td><td>5,780</td><td>12,760</td></tr><tr><td>21,880</td><td>19,200</td><td>12,199</td><td>53,279</td></tr></table>   |                 |                | Musket | Canon                  | Uncertain which       | Total           | 17,900lbs      | 16,200lbs | 6,419lbs | 40,519lbs | 3,980 | 3,000  | 5,780 | 12,760 | 21,880 | 19,200 | 12,199 | 53,279 |  |
| Musket   | Canon  | Uncertain which | Total          |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
| 17,900lbs  | 16,200lbs  | 6,419lbs        | 40,519lbs      |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
| 3,980  | 3,000  | 5,780           | 12,760         |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
| 21,880   | 19,200   | 12,199          | 53,279         |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
|  | Destroyed by the enemy as nearly as we can find & to be deducted....   |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
|  | 1779. Sep. 25—lent to Congress 22,960 lb. powder of which perhaps 10,000 lb. was their own.....12,960  |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
|  | 1780. June. 30—delivered to Col. Finnie for the Southern service.....10,000  |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
|  | <hr/> 22,960   |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
|  | The accounts of other ammunition sent to N. Carolina from the state magazines are among the papers lost. The fixed ammunition is remembered to have been somewhat short of 100,000 cartridges. how much more loose ammunition is not remembered.   |                 |                |        |                        |                       |                 |                |           |          |           |       |  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |



4. How many arms had we from Congress? were they complete stands? how many have been furnished Congress since the war?

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Arms (most of them complete stands) carried into Continental service by the 3d Virginia regiment.....   | 627    |
| 4th.....  | 515    |
| 5th.....  | 270    |
| 6th.....  | 673    |
| 2d State regiment.....  | 416    |
| Col. Porterfield's detam <sup>t</sup> sent to S. C. 1780.....   | 200    |
| Harrison's artillery.....   | 25     |
| 2d, 10th & 12th none.   |        |
| The 1st, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th & 1st State from which I have no returns (forming an average from the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 2d State, & the 2d, 10th & 12th from which I have returns) may be supposed..... | 2,812  |
| Sent to S. Carolina with Col. David Mason in 1779.....  | 1,000  |
| Sent to S. Carolina with Gen. Scott's new levies in 1779.....   | 3,975  |
| Sent to N. Carolina in 1780. 2200 rampart arms & 1775 muskets & bayonets.....   | 5,000  |
| We received of Continental arms in 1779, one half of which were rampart arms.....   | 10,513 |

5. How many tents, or tent-cloth & other camp necessities have we?

We had 230 tents in November last. they were delivered for the use of the militia & state troops during that invasion. after the invasion 75 were sent on with Col. Green's corps; some were reserved for the troops at Chesterfd C.H. and the rest are in use with the state troops & militia now in the field in this state. we have not at present a sufficient number of camp-kettles, but very shortly shall have very few.

6. What prospect have we of supplies of the above? also blankets & cloth for Souldiers clothes?

We have no prospect of any supply of tent cloth. Camp-kettles we have it in our power to procure from Hunter's works. there are provided for the men at Chesterfield C. house 400 suits of clothes, 400 pr. stockings, 200 pr. shoes, 800 shirts, & 200 blankets. the deficiency we have no means of providing, nor yet a single article for Col. Buford's corps. Col. Taylor's regiment is unclothed and no prospect of our cloathing them. our Captives in Charles-town are in extreme distress, which nothing will enable us to relieve unless we could get permission to send tobacco to them.

7. How many men have we in the field? and how many that cannot act for want of necessities? & what are their principal wants?

Summary view of this.

|             | In the field | In captivity | Total |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Regulars... | 2544         | 1392         | 3936  |
| Militia.... | 3691         | ....         | 3691  |
| Total.....  | 6235         | 1392         | 7627  |

8. What stock of provision, what are our resources, & expectations as to them.

9. How far are you advised as to the wants of N. Carolina?

Gibson's regiment at Fort Pitt Sep. 22, 1780.....  
 Capt. Heath's company at F. Pitt, no return. belevd about.....  
 Taylor's regiment of guards, Dec. 1, 1780.....  
 Col. Harrison's regiment; no return. but said to be about.....  
 Col. Buford's command (cannot act for want of clothing).....  
 Col. Green's command.....  
 At Chesterfa C. house.....  
 Gibson's State regiment (including Brent's 30 men) Jan. 22, 1781.....  
 White's & Washington's horse. no return. but said to be about.....  
 Maj. Nelson's horse.....  
 In captivity at Charles-town. May 12, 1780.....  
 Militia in service in Carolina. Jan. 13, 1781.....  
 Militia in service in Virginia. to be reduced to.....

I hope we shall be able to purchase about 3000 hogs. the act of assembly will furnish 3000 beeves. we have engaged 10,000 barrels of flour & can engage more if necessary. the returns of short forage under the specific tax the last year amounted to about 100,000 bushels and I suppose may be reckoned the same this year. whatever more may be wanting, can be procured under the provision law. we shall be very far short of the Continental demand in spirits & salt. the pork, beef, & flour above mentioned excludes what we are now consuming.

I have not the least information.

[Endorsed:] Lre/Speaker Harrison/Jan. 29. 1781.

| for the war | for less terms or terms not specified | Total |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 61          | 117                                   | 178   |
| .....       | 30                                    | 30    |
| .....       | 260                                   | 260   |
| .....       | .....                                 | 60    |
| 60          | .....                                 | ..... |
| 500         | 500                                   | 500   |
| 400         | 400                                   | 400   |
| 500         | 500                                   | 500   |
| 182         | 40                                    | 222   |
| .....       | 300                                   | 300   |
| .....       | 94                                    | 94    |
| .....       | 1,392                                 | 1,392 |
| .....       | 991                                   | ..... |
| .....       | 2,700                                 | ..... |

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GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN BANISTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 61.*)

The  
County Lieut. of Dinwiddie,

In Council Jan<sup>ry</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I inclose you a letter from Col<sup>o</sup> Meade, one of Baron Steuben's aids, by which you will perceive that a M<sup>r</sup> Hill of your County while commanding at Hood's has seized a work ox from a person in that neighbourhood contrary to the express orders and regulations of the Baron; it is further said that this violence was accompanied with insult which rendered it more injurious. While the public necessities oblige us to use force, for the supplies of our Army, it is our duty to lay the practice under strict rules, to guard it against oppression and wanton injury, and to reprobate everything like insult which might make the sufferer feel the act of violence more deeply. You will therefore be pleased to arrest the said M<sup>r</sup> Hill and have him tried by a court-martial. You are herewith informed what were the orders of Baron Steuben forbidding the act complained of.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 61.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Spotswood—<sup>229</sup>

Rich<sup>d</sup> January 31<sup>st</sup> 1781.—

Sir,

I received your favour containing a proposition for raising a Legion for the defence of the State: as there are several parts of it which are beyond the powers of the executive to stipulate, I shall do myself the pleasure of laying it before the Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly whom we have been obliged to convene on the first of March next. The result of their determinations shall be immediately communicated to you.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN SYME.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 62.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> John Syme<sup>230</sup>

Janu<sup>ry</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1781, Richm<sup>d</sup>

Sir,

What induced the executive at first to remove the Stores from Cumberland up the river to Newcastle was the danger they would be in from the enemy who seemed to shew by their actions that the destruction of Public Stores was a principal object. Their later move-

<sup>229</sup>Alexander Spotswood, major, 2nd Virginia, 1776; lieutenant colonel, 7th May, 1776; colonel, 21st February, 1777; resigned 9th October, 1777.

<sup>230</sup>John Syme, captain, 10th Virginia, 1776; resigned the 3rd of January, 1778; was at this time colonel of Virginia militia.

ments seeming now to indicate no such danger, we shall decline removing the corn at all from Cumberland, and as the transportation by land from Cumberland here is so little more than from New Castle, we shall adopt the plan of bringing the cannon from Cumberland by land. The Shells, shot, &c. being less important may remain until they can be carried by water to whatever place they shall be wanting at. If all the rum<sup>231</sup> and other Spirit is not come already, that should be brought directly. I am to thank you for your attention to this business

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONELS MATHEWS AND BOWYER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 62.*)

Col<sup>os</sup> Mathews and Bowyer—

Rich<sup>d</sup> Janu<sup>ry</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Every tent and all the tent stuff owned by the State were delivered during the last Invasion, 230 in the whole. Of these 75 were sent to the Southward, the remaining 155 are still somewhere. I have given orders to find in whose possession they are, and as soon as it is known I will inform Baron Steuben and communicate to him your want, which I make no doubt he will order to be first supplied; as it seems that those who being nearest the enemy's lines must frequently shift their quarters, should have what tents there are, those at a greater distance having it [in] their power to build and remain in their Huts.<sup>232</sup> The application for ammunition must be to the Officer commanding where the main body lies, this is at present Gen<sup>l</sup> Mulenburg; we can only furnish ammunition to the Commanding officer, and he orders the distribution.— After secreting every store public and private, no tools can be got for you except a few files. The tools in our public shops were mostly destroyed—

If you can procure tent-stuff by impressing it will be approved, you will give certificates to the owners and return me a list of the certificates. I will use my endeavours to prevail on D<sup>r</sup> Foushee or some other Surgeon to attend your Corps.

Col<sup>o</sup> Sampson Matthews—

Col<sup>o</sup> John Bowyer to the word huts.

<sup>231</sup>Many references have been made in Jefferson's letters up to this point to rum and other spirits for the soldiers. It is interesting to note that in the Council journal for January 31, 1781, there is the following entry:

The board being certified by Major General Baron Steuben that the Continental rules are that Spirits shall not be issued but to troops on long marches, on duty in wet weather, or on fatigue duty; and that he has accordingly regulated the present issues to the Militia and troops in service; it is the Opinion of the board that the troops in the separate service of the State should be placed on the same footing with those under continental Officers, and therefore advise that the regulation before mentioned be adopted by the State which is carried accordingly.

<sup>232</sup>There is at the word "huts" in the original an asterisk directing attention to the note a the bottom to the effect that only a portion of the letter was to be written to Col. Bowyer,—who was a colonel of a regiment of riflemen. He was wounded and taken prisoner at Jamestown July 6, 1781.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 63.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon—

Jan<sup>ry</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1781. Richmond.

Sir,

I am glad that the Commissioners of the provision law in your neighbourhood have agreed to lend their aid in furnishing you with provisions. They are certainly justifiable as that law has been re-enacted by the Assembly. As soon as a force began to collect at Fredericksburg, I directed the Commissary Brown (who is authorized by the Law to instruct the Commissioners in what is to be expected from them) to take immediate measures for procuring subsistence for those forces either by sending a deputy or applying to the commissioners.

Your arrangements for the defence of Potowmac & Rappahan<sup>e</sup> appear to have been judicious. Baron Steuben coming here soon after the receipt of your letter I referred to him to do in that matter what he should think best. As it is my wish to furnish what force is requisite for our defence as far as I am enabled but to leave to the Commanding Officers solely the direction of that force. I make no doubt he has written to you on that subject.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL ROBERT LAWSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 64.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Lawson

Rich<sup>d</sup> Janu<sup>ry</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I have conferred with Baron Steuben on the subject of forming a magazine of provisions for your post: and intimated that behind the Blackwater or Nottoway at farthest such a magazine would be safe and if rendered unnecessary in this State by the removal of the enemy, would be convenient to Carolina; He disapproves of it, however he has directed that no great collections of provisions shall be made in that part of the country and that the Commisaries shall furnish provisions to the army from three days to three days so as always to have that stock of provisions on hand and no more. I cannot conceive how Maj<sup>r</sup> Nelson's cavalry are already reduced to sufferance for want of cloathing, when they have been cloathed since their return to this state during the present invasions.

I have conferred also with Baron Steuben on the plan you proposed for raising volunteer horse. He seems unwilling to receive any for a shorter term than the continuance of the invasion. Could they be detained for that term on the conditions you mention it would certainly be more eligible; He proposes to supply the want of horse by permitting some of the Militia infantry to serve on horse back on their own horses. I believe also that we shall recal Cap<sup>t</sup> Reid's troop from Maryland, this troop is full. I hope you will be able to procure tools enough by impressing for building Huts as the destruction of our Shops & tools here disables us from making them. Huts will be warmer

than tents and therefore preferable as far as they can be used, but some tents ought certainly to be with you & I think might be had. There were between two & three hundred delivered out during the last invasion of which 75 went on to the Southward with Col<sup>o</sup> Green's <sup>233</sup> Corps, the residue must still be remaining. I will have enquiry made for them.

P. S.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Lawson since writing the above I have spoken with M<sup>r</sup> Newton. The powers under which provisions are impressed will suffice to form a magazine and as he seems to think that it will be sufficient if a few days provision be laid in I think the Commissaries may store so much behind the Blackwater. I am just informed there is a prospect of raising horse here during the invasion to serve under the conditions of Militia.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. MUHLENBURG.

(From Ford's "*Writings of Thos. Jefferson*," II, p. 441.)

Richmond Jan. 31, 1781.

Sir,

Acquainted as you are with the treasons of Arnold, I need say nothing for your information, or to give you a proper sentiment of them. You will readily suppose that it is above all things desirable to drag him from those under whose wing he is now sheltered. On his march to and from this place I am certain it might have been done with facility, by men of enterprise & firmness. I think it may still be done though perhaps not quite so easily. Having peculiar confidence in the men from the Western side of the Mountains, I meant as soon as they should come down to get the enterprise proposed to a chosen number of them, such whose courage & whose fidelity would be above all doubt. Your perfect knowledge of those men personally, and my confidence in your discretion, induce me to ask you to pick from among them proper characters, in such number as you think best, to reveal to them our desire, & engage them to undertake to seize and bring off this greatest of all traitors. Whether this may be best effected by their going in as friends & awaiting their opportunity, or otherwise is left to themselves. The smaller the number the better; so that they be sufficient to manage him. Every necessary caution must be used on their part, to prevent a discovery of their design by the enemy, as should they be taken, the laws of war will justify against them the most rigorous sentence. I will undertake if they are successful in bringing him off alive, that they shall receive five thousand guineas reward among them. And to men formed for such an enterprize it must be a great incitement to know that their names will be recorded with glory in history, with those of Vanwert, Paulding & Williams. The enclosed order from Baron Steuben will authorize you to call for & dispose of any force you may think necessary, to place in readiness

<sup>233</sup>This was Colonel John Green, who entered the service as captain in the 1st Virginia Regiment in 1775. He was in due time made colonel of the 10th Virginia (26th January, 1778) and transferred to the 6th Virginia in September, 1778. He was from Culpeper County.

for covering the enterprise, & securing the retreat of the party. Mr. Newton, the bearer of this, & to whom its contents are communicated in confidence, will provide men of trust to go as guides. These may be associated in the enterprise, or not, as you please; but let that point be previously settled, that no difficulties may arise as to the parties entitled to participate of the reward. You know how necessary profound secrecy is in this business, even if it be not undertaken.<sup>2 3 4</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 65.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Davies

Rich<sup>d</sup> February 1<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I suppose there is no hope of our getting hats for the soldiers, we will aid you any wise in our power towards getting caps made, M<sup>r</sup> Armistead receives 1800£ to be transmitted you for your tailors and seamstresses. He has received an order to deliver you all the leather he has (enough for about 300 or 350 pair three q<sup>r</sup> soals) and receives one now to make up the deficiency of 1500 pair as soon as we recive it from the Barracks.

I shall take measures for obtaining from Col<sup>o</sup> Waggoner an explanation as to Mattenly's complaint, and if not satisfactory shall do what Justice further requires.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 65.*)

Gover<sup>r</sup> Lee

Richm<sup>d</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

Sir

I am much obliged by your Excellency's favour of Janu<sup>ry</sup> 5th. Joseph Shoemaker is a citizen of this State and has been an active mischievous traitor. The dangers of escape on the road from Baltimore to this place, and from this place, where since our removal from W<sup>ms</sup>burg no public jail has been yet erected, are so great as to induce me to suggest to your Excellency the trial and punishment of this offender under your laws, should he have committed any depredation within your State which they would punish capitally; and in this case I will on intimation from your Excellency furnish you with proofs of his citizenship authenticated in any way which your Laws shall require. Should he not be amenable to justice under your Laws, or should he be acquitted on trial, I will on information thereof take immediate measures for having him received & brought hither.

<sup>2 3 4</sup>Mr. Ford says in a note that this letter, the original of which is among the Jefferson manuscripts in the Library of Congress, and has no address, was probably written to George Rogers Clark. This, however, is a mistake. The letter is also printed in the fourth volume of Burk, where it is said to have been written to General Muhlenburg. The internal evidence, moreover, seems to prove this ascription correct.

I have been honoured with a letter from the Honorable M<sup>r</sup> Jenifer, President of your Senate and M<sup>r</sup> Bruff Speaker of the house of Delegates proposing that we should invite our Allies the French to take a post within our state convenient for the defence of Chesapeake Bay, and desiring a communication on this subject with your Excellency. The difficulties on this head will certainly not arise with us. Should our Allies not have a certainty of obtaining and keeping a superiority of naval power in the American seas, they would probably think any post on the navigable waters of Chesapeake liable to loss. As a discussion of this matter with the French Minister required full information to him of the various posts & grounds which they might think fitted for defence as well as for overlooking the Bay, of their conveniency to aid from the country & many other circumstances which might draw the correspondence, if on paper, to a great length, I have thought it best to desire the Honble M<sup>r</sup> Harrison Speaker of our house of Delegates who set out for Philadelphia two days ago, and who is perfectly acquainted with the circumstances to speak with the French minister on this subject and to give him every information which may be necessary to determine his Opinion. I had during the last Summer taken the liberty of soliciting from him some naval force to be stationed in our bay, and received hopes that it might be done, just when the Enemy now within this State, came into the bay. I am afraid the proof they have exhibited of the practicability of making inroads into our country when conducted with rapidity and aided by wind and waters, will rather discourage our Allies from hazarding much in any situation which may be pointed out.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 479.)

In Council Feby 1<sup>st</sup> 1781.

While troops are in the open field without cover, it is impossible to permit those under the cover of houses, to use tents as blankets, were such an abuse admissible in any situation. it is therefore the opinion of the board that the tents within mentioned be immediately delivered to the State Quarter Master.<sup>235</sup>

(From the *Virginia State Archives*, *Ex. Coms.*)

#### A PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Thomas Jefferson Esq<sup>r</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> of the Commonwealth of Virg<sup>a</sup>.

Whereas Congress considering that it had been the wise policy of these States to extend the protection of their Laws to all those who should settle among them of whatever nation or religion they might be, and to admit them to a participation of the benefits of Civil and religious freedom, and that the benevolence of this practice as well as

<sup>235</sup>This letter was written on back of letter from Colonel Muter in reference to the use of tents as blankets.



its salutary effects had rendered it worthy of being continued in future times that his Britannic Majesty in order to destroy our freedom and happiness had commenced against us a cruel and unprovoked war, and unable to engage Britons sufficient to execute his sanguinary measures, had applied for aid to foreign Princes who were in the habit of selling the blood of their people for money, and from them had procured and transported hither considerable numbers of foreigners, and it was conceived that such Foreigners if apprized of the practice of these States would chuse to accept of Lands, Liberty and Safety, and communion of good Laws & mild Government in a Country where many of their Friends and relations were already happily settled, rather than continue exposed to the toils and Dangers of a long and bloody War, waged against a people guilty of no other Crime than that of refusing to exchange freedom for Slavery; and that they would do this the more especially when they should reflect that after they had violated every Christian and moral precept, by invading & attempting to destroy those who had never injured them or their Country, their only reward, if they escaped Death and Captivity, would be a return to the Despotism of their Prince, to be by him again sold to do the drudgery of some other enemy to the rights of mankind: and that our Enemies had thought fit not only to invite our Troops to desert our Service but to compel our Citizens falling into their hands to serve against their Country: did resolve that these States would receive all such foreigners who should leave the armies of his Britannic Majesty in America, and should chuse to become members of any of these States, and that they should be protected in the free exercise of their respective religions, and be invested with the rights, privileges and immunities of Natives, as established by the Laws of these States; and moreover that they would provide for every such Person 50 Acres of un-appropriated Lands in some of these States, to be held by him and his Heirs in absolute property.— I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council of State, to issue this my Proclamation, hereby notifying more generally the said engagement of Congress, and further promising to all such Foreigners who shall leave the Armies of his Britannic Majesty, while in this State and repair forthwith to me at this place, that they shall receive from this Commonwealth, a further donation of two Cows, and an exemption, during the present war, and their continuance in this State, from all taxes for the support thereof, and from all Militia and Military Service.

And moreover that they shall receive a full compensation for any Arms or accoutrements which they shall bring with them and deliver to the Commanding Officer at any of the Posts holden by our Forces, taking his receipt for the same.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth at Richmond, this second Day of February in the year of our Lord 1781 & of the Commonwealth the fifth.

TH: JEFFERSON.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 67.)*

The Baron Steuben

Feb<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

Gen<sup>l</sup> Arnold having left in the hands of M<sup>r</sup> Buchanan<sup>236</sup> of this place 20 guineas for purposes not approved of by us I am to beg leave to trouble you with the ordering it to be returned by a flag.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL DAVIES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 67.)*Col<sup>o</sup> Davies,In Council Feb<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am very sorry the shoes and cloathing fall so far short of what we had reason to expect, such of the former as are unfit for use had better be returned, we shall omit no opportunity of making up the whole deficiency. The Shoemakers and Taylors at Warwick<sup>237</sup> receive orders today to go to your post under a M<sup>r</sup> Thornbury's care, who is himself one of them, we shall be glad to have the services of the sub-clothier, provided he is from the nature of his appointment, or will make himself accountable to our Clothier for his issues: What we wish to guard against is the issuing our clothing under the orders of a Continental Clothier-gen<sup>r</sup><sup>l</sup> who might give them to other troops. I inclose you an order for three hundred (long) weight of nail rods.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. NASH.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 67.)*Gover<sup>r</sup> NashRichm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

As it is possible they [*sic*] Enemy may mean to continue in their present position at Portsmouth and thereby shut up all commerce through the bay of Chesapeake, it becomes necessary to make provision in time through some other channel, of salt, cloathing and coverings for our Southern army. South Quay presents itself as the most practicable post. We have found it necessary here to permit the exportation of corn *on public account* to procure salt for public use. Vessels will therefore be freighted with this article from South Quay, which as they must of necessity pass through your State, I hope will be permitted to pass freely; indeed could your Excellency give permission to M<sup>r</sup> Ross our commercial agent, to procure part of his load-

<sup>236</sup>This was probably Mr. James Buchanan, a prominent merchant of Richmond—elder brother of the Rev. Jno. Buchanan.

<sup>237</sup>A small town in Chesterfield County in the neighborhood of Richmond—now extinct. It was a place of considerable importance during the Revolutionary War until burned by Phillips and Arnold in the spring of 1781.

ing of corn in your State, it would save much transportation to us. The returns in salt will be in like manner to South Quay or directly up the Roanoke to the Magazines desired to be established by Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene

We hope within a short time to complete the equipments of the residue of our regulars (between 4 & 500) and to send them on to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene, being determined to permit the body of plunderers in our State to divert as little as possible of our effectual aids from the Southern quarter. we shall oppose them with Militia, and send our regulars to join the Southern army.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 68.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Ross.—

In Council Feb<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I do myself the pleasure of inclosing your appointment as Commercial agent to this State. The Gene<sup>l</sup> Assembly have by their act declared that they will make good all your engagements and thereby pledged the faith of the State to supply any deficiency of the funds put into your hands or any accidental losses which may occur to which I have only to add an assurance that every aid and facility shall be furnished you which are within the power of the Executive.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN SYME.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 69.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> John Syme

Richm<sup>d</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Should any of the Stores be on their way up before my last order becomes notified to M<sup>r</sup> Watkins they had better be received & stored at Newcastle than to be sent back. If your letter mentioned Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelsons call of your lower battalion, it escaped me. I must confer with Baron Steuben on y<sup>e</sup> subject from whom whatsoever order is given will go to Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson. The observation on y<sup>e</sup> failure to make returns of their Militia by the County Lieu<sup>t</sup> was become necessary, as not more than 1-3 made any return at all. M<sup>r</sup> Smith the S. Q. was instructed some time ago to go to New castle and endeavour to procure fields in order to send his foot horses to, to be fattened with the public corn there. I suppose him to be in the execution of this order.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BROWNE.<sup>238</sup>

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 70.*)

Sir,

Richmond Feb<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

I have last night received such a representation of the condition the Southern Army is like to be in for want of provisions as to give

<sup>238</sup>John Browne was commissioner of the provision law.

serious apprehensions that it may be obliged to retire into this State & of course to draw the Southern enemy into it. It therefore becomes absolutely necessary that whatever porke can be procured, should be laid in on the Roanoke, and that the forces & posts within this State be subsisted on beef, for this purpose it will be proper that you immediately appoint a deputy in each county with orders to furnish you without delay with all the beef that can be eaten, & put up and prepare by feeding what may be necessary to continue the subsistence of these posts through the winter

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. ——— HARMER.

(*From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.*)

In Council February 3<sup>d</sup> 1781

The Board agree to give thirty thousand weight of Tobacco for the within Slaves one year: and if Mr Harmer takes them away on the 10th of October, or at any time between that & the end of the year, he shall allow a Credit for a part of their cloathing & taxes proportioned to the time wanting to make up the compleat year. if they be withdrawn on account of an Invasion, a Similar deduction is to be made for their Wages, Cloathing & taxes. Payment to be made half yearly.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BROWN[E].

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 69.*)

John Brown, Esq<sup>r</sup>

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

In my letter of this date directing the immediate appointment of your deputies in each county I omitted to desire you to instruct them to give notice without delay to the Court of their County of the place within their County at which they will receive the waggon team & other appendages provided by the Act for supplying the army with clothes, provisions and waggons: which waggon team & appendages they are immediately to deliver to the Continental Quarter Master, taking his receipt and certifying to you the cost of the whole that you may debt [debit] the Continent with it.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL MUTER.

(*From "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 486.*)

In Council February 3<sup>d</sup> 1781

Col<sup>o</sup> Muter will be pleased to look out for an active, attentive Officer, to undertake the duty of Commissary of Military Stores.<sup>239</sup>

<sup>239</sup>Letter was written on back of letter from Col. Muter to Gov. Jefferson on subject of commissary of military stores.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR CLAIBORNE.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 72.)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Claiborne

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The establishment of a Harness Manufacture in Albemarle, seems advisable, but the Barracks will be much better than Charlottesville, because the German commanding Officer may and probably will prohibit the men from leaving the Barracks.

The necessity of the most active exertions to procure provisions for our Army has obliged us to require M<sup>r</sup> Brown to appoint a Deputy in each county, instead of each Senatorial district, as formerly intended. The place of delivery of the Waggon and Teams shall be notified to the County Courts by these Deputies, it will probably be at their Offices.

I inclose you your Warrant for half a Million of pounds which I hope will enable you to procure drivers among other purposes which will require money from you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES WOOD.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 70.)

Col<sup>o</sup> Wood

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The inclosed letters will sufficiently explain to you their object: I shall be much obliged to you to endeavour to negotiate the purchase of bills therein proposed with all the expedition you can; it is natural to expect that the demand for such a sum will raise the exchange to a certain degree. We have no right to expect to force the ordinary course of things and must therefore submit to it. Should a higher exchange be insisted on than has been before currently given you will be pleased to certify the last current rate of exchange, by which we shall judge of the reasonableness of the rise.<sup>240</sup>

[Addressed:]

Col<sup>o</sup> Wood at the barracks in Alber<sup>l</sup> or at Fred<sup>k</sup>town in Maryland  
Col<sup>o</sup> Wood or in his absence Col<sup>o</sup> Taylor at the barracks.

<sup>240</sup>An entry from the Journal of the Council for Feb. 3, 1781, elucidates the letter given above. It is:

A Letter to Colonel Wood requesting him to endeavor to negotiate the purchase of bills of the Convention Officers to the amount of 14,492 hard Dollars, for the use of our Prisoners in New York; Also Letters to General Hamilton, and Colonel Mingen of the Convention Troops, inclosing them an extract of a Letter from Major General Phillips, containing a proposition for the mutual accomodation of the Captives on both sides; & a letter to Mr Geddis, Paymaster of the Convention troops, on the subject of the aforesaid negotiations.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. ——— GEDDIS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 72.)*M<sup>r</sup> Geddis Paymaster to y<sup>e</sup> Convention Troops.Richmond Feb<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

Our prisoners in N York being at present much distressed for a sum of money amounting to 14,492 hard dollars, it would make me very happy should you have present occasion to sell draughts to that amount for paper money at the rate of exchange current at that time with you. Your draughts on me expressing the rate of exchange and accompanied with a certificate from the American Officer commanding at the post that such is the rate current at that market shall be honoured on sight to that amount. Any preference which you may give us in the purchase of your bills on equal terms, and any anticipation of the ordinary periods of your draughts will be considered as an evidence of that accomating [accommodating] disposition, so worthy of being cultivated as it tends to make all parties happier, and as entitling the corps of which you are generally, or yourself personally to a reciprocation of kind office. Your answer informing me whether anything can can be done in this business will oblige

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL HAMILTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 71.)*Gen<sup>l</sup> Hamilton & Col<sup>o</sup> MingenRichm<sup>d</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I do myself the pleasure of inclosing you an extract of a letter I received from Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Phillips containing a proposition for the mutual accommodation of the Captives on both sides; I shall be very happy if it can be carried into execution, tho' to bring it within our power it will be necessary that we furnish the money of the State, and receive credit for it in gold and silver at the exchange which shall be current at market. Our prisoners at New York are now peculiarly distressed for a sum of money amounting to 14,492 hard dollars. Should it be convenient for you to call for any sum of paper money for the use of the troops in Albemarle, your draughts on me expressing the rate of exchange and accompanied with a certificate from the American commanding officer at the same place, that such is the rate current at that market, shall be honoured on sight to that amount. My anxiety for the assistance of my Countrymen in New York induces me to add further, that any preference which you may by this means give us in the purchase of your bills on equal terms, and any anticipation of the ordinary periods of your draughts which you may think proper to use for our accommodation on the present occasion, will be considered as one of those kind offices which, as they tend to make all parties happier, it is our desire to cultivate and to multiply on our part. Your answer informing me whether anything can be done in this business will oblige

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL WAGGONER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 73.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Waggoner

Rich<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The inclosed is an Extract from a letter written to me by Col<sup>o</sup> Davies who commands at Chesterfield Court-house. I make no doubt you are able to state this matter to our satisfaction, and while duty impels me to require it on behalf of the souldier, my own wishes concur perfectly in affording you an opportunity of justifying yourself by placing this transaction in its true light.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL THOMAS NEWTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 73.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Newton

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The judge of the Admiralty of Pensylvania has given notice to our Delegates in Congress that there are three negroes Tom, Hester and Celia confined in jail in Philadelphia in consequence of a condemnation of a vessel in which they were taken. They say they are the property of a certain Money Godwin of Norfolk, that their master went off with the British Fleet under Leslie, and gave them permission to do the same, on which they went on board the vessel in which they were taken. I shall be much obliged to you to enquire and inform me whether these facts be true, or whether their master be in the State still—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 74.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Davis [Davies]

Richmond Feb<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am anxious to have secured for the detachment which is next to proceed Southwardly as many tents as will suffice for them, and to collect all the residue belonging to the State and send them down for the use of the Militia. Of 230 tents issued during the last invasion, I understand that 75 were sent on with Col<sup>o</sup> Green's detachment. I find that about 28 were returned to this place, the rest I have reason to expect were delivered up at Petersburg, and I am informed that whatever were at that place were on the late approach of the enemy brought to Chesterfield Court House and moved from thence under your care. I shall be much obliged to you to inform me what number will be requisite for the detachment which is to go Southwardly, what number you have, and whether you know anything of any others.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 74.)*County Lieut<sup>s</sup> of Dinwiddie & Essex—Richm<sup>d</sup> Febr'y 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.Sir,<sup>241</sup>

I have received particular information that Richard Overby and Richard Wills two of Cap<sup>t</sup> Hardaway's company of Militia of your county lately on duty below have deserted and carried off their arms; as they are triable by a Court-Martial of the Officers remaining in the field I am to desire you to exert every effort to have them taken and when taken to send them under guard to Cabbins point or wherever else the principal encampment shall be.

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| C <sup>t</sup> L <sup>t</sup> Dinwiddie. | Ric <sup>d</sup> Overby                                   | } of Cap <sup>t</sup> [Hardaway's] Comp <sup>ny</sup> |
|  | Rich <sup>d</sup> Wills                                   |   |
| C <sup>t</sup> L <sup>t</sup> Essex      | Jesse Wood of Cap <sup>t</sup> Dixon's Comp <sup>ny</sup> |   |

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL GEORGE GIBSON.

*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.)*Col<sup>o</sup> Gibson.Richmond 5<sup>th</sup> Febr'y. 1781.

(Copy)

Sir,

The Executive are shortly to proceed to the reformation of the State Forces according to a resolution of Assembly. As your Commission is the oldest it is probable the Council will be of opinion that you are entitled to a continuance in comm<sup>d</sup> & I think they will consider it as fortunate that they will be at liberty to continue you: from what passed in conversation when I had the pleasure of seeing you I apprehended you did not mean to remain in Service. I shall be very glad to know your wishes before We proceed to this business as I shou<sup>d</sup> be anxious to retain your Services if not entirely disagreeable to you, & if you were determined to retire that this might be effected on the footing you wou<sup>d</sup> prefer.— Your answer will oblige,<sup>242</sup>

<sup>241</sup>The letter copied into the letter book was to the county lieutenant of Dinwiddie. The same letter was written, however, to the county lieutenant of Essex in reference to Jesse Wood of Captain Dixon's company.

<sup>242</sup>This letter and the action indicated were the outgrowth of the situation set forth in the following entry in the journal of the Council for Feb. 6, 1781:

The Board proceeded to take into consideration the resolution of General Assembly of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1781 which is in these words to wit, "Whereas the regiments on State establishment are greatly reduced in their numbers of men, insomuch that most of the Officers belonging to them are without employment: the General Assembly taking the same into their consideration, and sensible of the merit of the said Officers, of whose services they cannot now be availed for want of men; induced by the exigencies of the State, HAVE RESOLVED that the Governor, with advice of Council be desired to discontinue for the present from actual service such of the said Officers who are supernumerary to the men composing at present the several Regiments, or Corps on State Establishment", and the returns of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup>. State regiments and of the State Garrisons regiment 176— Where-



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(*From Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 492.*)

In Council, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Col: Muter will be pleased to order the overseer of the Foundry negroes or such other person as he thinks proper, to receive & take care of the canoes brought & to be brought to Westham, until a house can [be] built for them & the matter arranged—chairs & a lock or locks should be provided.<sup>243</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN HARRISON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 77.*)

Richmond. Febr'y 7<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Hon<sup>l</sup> Benj<sup>n</sup> Harrison, Philadelphia  
Sir,

The inclosed papers will sufficiently explain themselves to You. They were put into my hands by Col<sup>o</sup> Mathews together with a requisition from Congress to furnish 14,492 hard dollars to pay the debts of our prisoners in New York. Were we permitted to send produce, we could do it for less than half of what the hard dollars will cost us, & I think such articles might be selected from the within, especially when that of coal is added (which Col<sup>o</sup> Mathews assures me will be done) as would do neither good to the Enemy nor injury to us. Coal sells in N York at six guines the chauldron. Col<sup>o</sup> Mathews assures me that the Enemy has never experienced the least inconvenience

upon they advise the Governor, that the whole non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the said regiments be consolidated into one, to be divided into seven Companies, and commanded by the eldest Lieutenant Colonel, and Major; and the seven eldest Captains & Lieutenants, and Ensigns, of the said three regiments; and that all other the Officers of the said regiments be discontinued for the present from actual service as supernumeraries— And having no return of the Regiment of Artillery, but receiving information that there are not more men remaining thereof than will form a Company, the greater part of which, if not the whole, are at present in actual service to the Southward under Captain Roane, They advise that the same be continued in Service under his command as a Company until the expiration of their enlistments; and that all others the Officers of the said regiment be discontinued for the present from actual service as Supernumeraries.

Gov. Jefferson's letter to Colonel Gibson was not, for some reason hard to determine, copied into the letter book. The source of the text given above is copy of the letter made by Col. Gibson and sent to Governor Nelson with letter from Col. Gibson to the governor dated August 1, 1781, offering at that time his services to the State and giving reasons for declining the offer made by Jefferson and the Council in February. A pretty full abstract of Col. Gibson's letter is given in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," II, 283.

<sup>243</sup>This letter was written on the back of a letter from George Smith, assistant quartermaster general, in reference to certain boats sent to Westham.

That another letter was written on the 6th of February by Governor Jefferson to Col. Muter is evidenced by the following entry on page 28 of the War Office Journal (preserved in the Virginia State Library):

Feb. 6, 1781.

Letter to the Governor in answer to one received from him this day, mentioning that no Camp Kettles were ready at Fredericksburg as I was told.

from a want of provisions since he has been in captivity; that indeed before the arrival of the Cork fleet they began to be apprehensive, but he thinks they have now near a twelve months provision. Taking this into consideration with the great alleviation of the maintenance of our prisoners which it would bring to us, perhaps you could negotiate a permission to us to send some of these articles to New York & Charlestown.<sup>244</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE MUTER.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 75.)

Col<sup>o</sup> George Muter.

|                                    | Specie | lb <sup>s</sup> of Tob <sup>o</sup> |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Artificers of the best kind.....   | 5/.    | or 25                               |
| Common D <sup>o</sup> .....        | 3/9    | 18¾                                 |
| Boat wrights of the best kind..... | 7/6    | 37½                                 |
| Common D <sup>o</sup> .....        | 5/.    | 25                                  |
| Waggon Conductors.....             | 5/.    | 25                                  |
| Waggoners.....                     | 2/6    | 12½                                 |
| Labourers, good.....               | 2/.    | 10                                  |
| Express riders.....                | 2/6    | 12½                                 |
| 4 horse teams & drivers.....       | 10/.   | 50                                  |
| 2 horse teams & drivers.....       | 7/6    | 37½                                 |

In Council Feby 7<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

It being necessary that there should be an agreement in the prices given by the Continental and State Quarter Masters, you will be

<sup>244</sup>As showing the want of fulness of the collection of Jefferson's letters edited by Paul Leicester Ford and frequently drawn upon in the present volume it may be mentioned that this letter to Harrison is the only one given by Ford bearing the date of February 8, 1781, whereas Jefferson wrote ten official letters that day as disclosed by the letter book, every last one of which is of importance and several of which appear to be of at least equal importance with the one selected. Mr. Ford had access to this letter book, for it is the source from which he secured the Harrison letter. It was a question with him of relative importance. The present collection aims to be exhaustive. Jefferson was a most important man, living at a most important period, and every scrap written by him throwing light in itself or cumulatively on the great conflict and on the part he took in it should be put into print.

It may not be out of place either to mention here the fact that the majority of these letters were written without consultation with the Council. Only four—those considered by him of greatest important—were considered by the Council, as is shown by the following entry in the Council journal for that day:

A Letter to Mr. Charles Dick requesting him to continue in the business of conducting the Gun factory at Fredericksburg: Also a Letter to the Honble Benj<sup>a</sup> Harrison requesting him to negotiate with Congress a Permission to us to send certain articles of Produce to New York and Charlestown to pay the Debts & for the relief of our Prisoners: Also a Letter to Major Richard Claiborne in answer to his proposing that the prices to be given in the State Quarter Masters Department should be the same of those give in the Continental Quarter Masters Department.

Also a Letter to the Hnble the Virginia Delegates in Congress requesting them o take measures for conveying here the Military Stores belonging to this State which arrived some time ago in Boston, or for the dispatch of them to the best advantage.

pleased to order the State Q. M. not to exceed the above rates of daily hire in any future contracts. Those contracts already in existence we are not at liberty to reduce.<sup>244a</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 75.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Davies

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

It was our intention that the tools should go with the workmen and hope they have accordingly gone. I have enquired of M<sup>r</sup> Armistead as to the giving a yard of linen for making shirts at Petersburg, he says it was never done by him; but that Col<sup>o</sup> Elliot the Continental Q. M. had given the price of a yard of linen. M<sup>r</sup> Armistead's allowance for the white linen shirts is 30 dollars. There is no cloathing at Petersburg under our order; from a hint in your letter you seem to expect that the men of the State-regiments are transferred to the continent, this is not the case, on the contrary such of them as are gone to the Southward will be recalled, to be employed as garrison. We approve of your having 30 or 40 shirts of the coarse linen made for the purpose of shifting the patients in the hospital. Before the receipt of yours of the 5<sup>th</sup>. I had inclosed the regulations proposed to be made in the Clothier's department for your observations

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 76.*)

Baron Steuben

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The inclosed Letter contains the first notification the Executive have received of the existence of any such cases as that of Lieut. Warman therein stated. Exclusive of the justice of his claim, the express reservation by the board of Officers of the rights of all those in his situation, seems to place him on the footing on which he would have been had his Commission been actually made out instead of that of whatever officer was substituted in his place. As you are proceeding to a new Arrangement of our Line, I have taken the liberty of refering Lieut. Warman with the inclosed Letter to you to claim his rank.—Should there be, contrary to the expectation of the Executive, such reasons against his claim and in favor of his Competitor, as in your Judgement should decide this point against Lieut. Warman, I shall be obliged to you for a communication of them; and in the mean time to keep the question open.

<sup>244a</sup>This letter as actually sent is among the Executive Papers in the Virginia State Library. It is in Jefferson's own handwriting. The first word in the last sentence, "those," begins with a small "t," and the next word, "contracts," with a capital.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JAMES HUNTER.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 77.)*M<sup>r</sup> James Hunter,Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

By the loss of many of our papers we find ourselves unable to say how stand our orders with you for camp-kettles. We shall be glad however whatever they be that you now furnish us with one thousand for the separate use of the State and to be called for by my order only.

P. S.

We will send 2 waggons a week hence for camp-kettles and continue them going backward and forward on the same business if you can make them fast enough till we get our whole number.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 78.)*

Baron Steuben

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The bearer hereof Col<sup>o</sup> Gaines a militia officer in the County of Amherst being desirous to become qualified in fact for the command he holds in his county, has applied to us to be permitted to serve on such a footing as will place it in his power to acquire a knowledge of his duty, asking nothing but rations and forage; while others, offended at the preference given to Officers formerly of the Line, have resigned commissions the duty of which they were not qualified to discharge; this Gentleman more laudably determines to learn those duties. This spirit we wish to encourage because produced by a due temperament of modesty & patriotism. Now therefore as the undertaking is, I must beg the favor of you to find some means of disposing not only of him but of any other who may apply for the same purpose, so as to put it in their power to acquire the knowledge necessary to enable them to act in their proper command hereafter. The rations & forage allowed them shall be at the expence of the State.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CLAIBORNE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 78.)*Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.Rich<sup>d</sup> Claiborne Esq<sup>r</sup>—

Sir,

We were not able to proceed to the consideration of the prices proposed to be given in your department till we could get a late arrangement of our own which interfered with some articles of yours. This we got today, and have come to the determination inclosed. Your first article we omitted because we give but two thirds of the allowance there proposed; the 2<sup>d</sup> because we have no such persons,



the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> because people fit for these offices are so very rare, that we are obliged to make our bargains with them as we can: the 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> articles we have raised knowing from experience that those people cannot be got for the prices you propose.

By an estimate which we have made of the cost of the articles contained in your requisition of this day we find they will cost 6,358,000 pounds: the bare naming of such a sum with your knowledge of the State of the Treasury will suffice to satisfy you that it would be chimerical for us to say we would procure those articles. It's our duty to make the most of the public money by applying it in the first instance to the supplying the greatest wants. On this view we can only endeavour to furnish money for such & so many of the articles therein stated as are most essentially necessary.

Pay of persons to be employed, and waggon hire p. day.

|  | specie | or | lb <sup>s</sup> Tob <sup>o</sup> |
|--|--------|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 Assistant Deputy Quarter Master's..... | 15     |    | 75                               |
| 2 Clerks and Store Keeper's.....         | 12/.   |    | 60                               |
| 3 Superintendent of Artificers.....      | 10/.   |    | 50                               |
| 4 Artificers best kind.....              | 4/.    |    | 20                               |
| 5 Common D <sup>o</sup> .....            | 3/.    |    | 15                               |
| 6 Superintendant Boatwrights.....        | 10/.   |    | 50                               |
| 7 Boat Wrights best kind.....            | 5/.    |    | 25                               |
| 8 Common D <sup>o</sup> .....            | 4/.    |    | 20                               |
| 9 Waggon Conductors.....                 | 5/.    |    | 25                               |
| 10 Waggoners.....                        | 1/6    |    | 7½                               |
| 11 Labourers, good.....                  | 1/6    |    | 7½                               |
| 12 Express riders.....                   | 2/6    |    | 12½                              |
| 13 Four horse Team and Drivers.....      | 10/.   |    | 50                               |
| 14 Two horse Team and Drivers.....       | 7/6    |    | 37½                              |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL RICHARD MORRIS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 80.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Morris <sup>245</sup>

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Tho' I consider our last appointment of you as having put the business prescribed by the inclosed resolution into a course of execution, I think it necessary in point of formality to inclose it to you and to repeat my wishes for as expeditious a settlement of the accounts of the Commissioners of the Provision Law & Agents of the specific tax as can be had.

<sup>245</sup>Colonel Richard Morris had been appointed to settle the accounts of the commissioners of the provision law. There is preserved in the Virginia State Archives a letter from him to Gov. Nelson on the subject summary of which is given in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," II, 297. In this letter Col. Morris also applied for appointment as one of the State auditors.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR JOSEPH HAWKINS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 80.)*M<sup>r</sup> Jos. Hawkins,Richmond Febr<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Finding by your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> of December that the justice of Comms<sup>y</sup> Clarke's account of the deficiencies in the issues provision to the Convention Troops is not acknowledged by you; be pleased to make me a return of those deficiencies according to what you suppose to be right.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. ——— CLARKE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 80.)*M<sup>r</sup> Clarke Commis<sup>ry</sup> of Conv<sup>tn</sup> Troops.Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

By a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Hawkins Commissary at the Barracks I find that the deficiencies in the issues stated in your account are not agreed to by him. If you will be pleased to settle this matter with him, I shall be glad to receive such an account of these deficiencies as is acknowledged on both sides. I take this occasion also to inform you that the account you were pleased to transmit me before has been lost by accident.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR CHARLES DICK.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 81.)*M<sup>r</sup> Charles DickRichmond Febr<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I was willing to hope from your letter to me that you would still consent to conduct the gun factory at Fredericksburg; in the hurry of business while you were here I omitted to ask you particularly, for which reason I think myself obliged to send you the inclosed resolution, and inform you that the Executive have reappointed you to that business and hope your continuance in it. Col<sup>o</sup> Lewis's state of health we understand has induced him to decline the further care of it.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES  
IN CONGRESS.*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 81.)*Virg<sup>a</sup> Delegates in Congress.Richmond Febr<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Gentlemen,

The Courier d'Europe a vessel from Penet & Co<sup>y</sup> having on board military stores for this State was chased into Boston by the enemy in

the summer of 1779. They were principally artillery stores, too bulky and heavy for us to think of bringing them on by land. By the loss of our papers we are unable to furnish an invoice of them but they are in the hands of a M<sup>r</sup> I. Bradford in Boston who I suppose can furnish you with one. If you can get them on board any part of the French Fleet which may at any time be coming here, it would be eligible: otherwise I would beg the favour of you to have them disposed of to the best advantage for the public.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 81.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington & the President of Congress <sup>246</sup>

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir

I have just received intelligence which though from a private hand, I believe is to be relied on, that a fleet of the Enemy's Ships have entered Cape Fear river, that 8 of them had got over the bar, & many others were laying off; that it was supposed to be a reinforcement to L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis, under the command of Gen<sup>l</sup> Prevost. This account, which had come thro' another channel, is confirmed by a letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Parsons at Halifax to the Gen<sup>l</sup> who forwards it to me. I thought it of sufficient importance to be communicated to your Excell<sup>cy</sup> by the stationed expresses. The fatal want of arms puts it out of our power to bring a greater force into the field than will barely suffice to restrain the adventures of the pitiful body of men they have at Portsmouth. Should any other be added to them this country will be perfectly open to them by land as well as by water.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. PAUL LOYALL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 82.*)

Pa<sup>l</sup> Loyall <sup>247</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>

In Council Febr<sup>ry</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Board having further considered the application you were pleased to make for Arms for the Virginia Militia at the North West Bridge, are of opinion, that the chief direction of the Military operations against the Enemy in this State being in Baron Steuben, it will be improper to make any order until consultation with him. The Militia embodied in this State having been put under his command, it is probable [proper] that any Orders which may go out on this subject may go from him. I shall take the earliest opportunity of consulting

<sup>246</sup>The letter was also written to Samuel Huntington, president of Congress.

<sup>247</sup>Mr. Paul Loyall was one of the most prominent citizens of Norfolk—frequently a member of the Board of Aldermen and several times mayor. At this time he was a member of the State Senate, in which body he served many terms. The "North West Bridge" spoken of was over a tributary of Currituck Sound twenty-four miles south east of Norfolk.

with him and of having done immediately whatever shall be concluded. I beg you to give the fullest assurances to the people of Princess Anne and Norfolk that no efforts of which we are capable, shall be spared to rescue them from the hands of the Enemy so soon as we shall be in condition to do it.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. THEODORICK BLAND.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 83.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Bland

Richmond, Feb<sup>ry</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter inclosing that of Col<sup>o</sup> Dubuysson. It gives us great pain that we are not able to do what is desired by that gentleman. I shall not rest this merely on the determination of the Executive not to exchange Gov<sup>r</sup> Hamilton at all while matters on our frontier are situated as at present, a determination founded as well on the possibility of real injury he would be enabled to do as on the apprehensions which the Western Country entertain of his eager enmity against us & influence with the savages. It is well known that the whole Line of Officers belonging to Virginia and North Carolina were taken some months before the captivity of Colo Dubuysson, and stand previously entitled to exchange on the just principle of regular rotation. Exchanges out of turn have already given great disgust, not only to those who have been passed by, but to the Officers in general who find themselves exposed to the danger of a like insult. I leave to yourself, Sir, to judge what would be the complaints were we to consent to the exchange in question, passing over a whole army whose Officers stand first entitled; these complaints would be the more distressing as they would be founded in justice, and would admit no possibility of answer. The same reasons are good against a parole exchange of such extent as the one proposed. I hope therefore that Col<sup>o</sup> Dubuysson will see this matter in its proper light and be satisfied that nothing but a sense of its being clearly against our duty prevents our concurrence in a measure leading so much to his relief and which is stated as eventually interesting to the family of Baron de Kalb, to whom gratitude would induce us to render every service reconcilable to that justice which is due to others.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. HARMANSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 84.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Harmanson

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am sorry that the inattention of the Continental Officers Col<sup>o</sup> Finnie and Major Forsythe to whom the provisions on your shore were transferred, should have given so much trouble to you and to us. We have interfered merely to save it to the Continent. On the same principle we must advise you to keep whatever will keep till you can



get information from one of those Gent<sup>l<sup>m</sup>e<sup>n</sup></sup> what shall be done with it. What will not keep had better be sold. I expected the Bacon had been taken away by the flag to Charlstown. As it is not you had better sell it to the best advantage. The Salt we shall be glad of on this shore, as formerly desired if you can get a safe opportunity of sending it over.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 84.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson—

In Council Febr<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Dear Gen<sup>l</sup>

Information having been given the Board that sundry Horses of British property, having been left by the Enemy, were taken by our Militia or un-armed Citizens, and a question made whether they belong to the Commonwealth or the Captor, we are of opinion that they should be yeilded to the Captor. It is thought however where any possible doubt can arise who was the Captor, that the Horse should be put in the Hands of the State Quartermaster, and the party or parties claiming make their right appear to the Commissioner of the War Office. As this question as far as we are informed concerned only persons under your command, I take the liberty of communicating it to you.

Your disposition of the Hides of Slaughtered Beeves is approved of. I am sorry any loss has been incurred in that article before.

We made it the subject of enquiry on the former Invasion and from the reports made to us, had reason to believe all had been taken care of. The oil is almost of as much importance as the Hide. The Waggons which were sent to Fredericksburg for camp-kettles, found none ready made. M<sup>r</sup> Hunter is making more and other Waggons will go off for them within three or four days. As fast as they are brought we shall endeavour to send them to the Militia. It would be well for us to be informed what number you have.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GREENE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 85.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene

Richmond Feb<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

I now do myself the pleasure of transmitting you information on the several heads of your requisitions. I am sorry that full compliance with them is impracticable. Every moment however brings us new proofs that we must be aided by your Northern Brethren. Perhaps they are aiding us and we may be uninformed of it.

I think near half the Enemy's Force are now in Virginia and the States south of that. Is half the burthen of opposition to rest on Virginia and North Carolina? I trust you concur with us in crying aloud on this Head.

I sincerely rejoice with you on Gen<sup>l</sup> Morgan's late important success. Besides the real loss sustained by the Enemy in the force they were moving against us, it will give us time to prepare for the residue. The prisoners taken on that occasion, I shall certainly take the liberty of handing on Northwardly thro' this State, for the reasons for doing this I beg leave to refer you to the inclosed.

Dr. Brownson received £75,000 equal to £1,000 specie; for the balance he must wait untill the Assembly meets. I hope they will then determine to make up their quota of men fully.

I have the pleasure to inform you that we have reason to expect, during the two ensuing months, very full supplies of all necessaries for our Army from France, on a contract we had made the last Spring. I hope too that their Escort is such as not only to render their entrance secure but to promise something further.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. GRANVILLE SMITH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 86.*)

M<sup>r</sup> G. Smith

Richmond Febr<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Forty slaves will be wanting two months to execute a defensive work at Hood's: You will therefore go out yourself immediately and endeavour to hire them. Apply in the first instance to those persons who having houses on the river above that place are more immediately interested in it's defence. I have been told that M<sup>r</sup> Carter, Col<sup>o</sup> Ric<sup>d</sup> Randolph and M<sup>r</sup> Bowler Cooke particularly have offered to furnish a number of Hands. It is labourers only that we want to that amount, for which if good & in proportion for those which are indifferent, the worth of ten pounds payable a day in paper money according to the last valuation of the Grand Jury preceding the payment shall be allowed. Besides these you are desired to engage one master Bricklayer and three assistants. The Labourers must be at Hoods on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, the Bricklayers when called for.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BROWNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 87.*)

M<sup>r</sup> John Brown [commissioner of the provision law]

Richmond Feb<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

You will be pleased to provide in y<sup>e</sup> neighbourhood of New Castle flour and stalled beef for 50,000 rations to be applied to no use but on my special order that these are meant to be applied. The beef must be kept ready for Slaughter at the Shortest warning.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 87.)*

Baron Steuben

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I have been honored with your Letter of yesterday's date. Your representation of the importance of erecting a small work at Hood's, was considered by the Executive as an evidence of your friendly attention to the defence of the State & was by them as you desired laid before the Assembly. The Assembly, pressed in time, did not as far as I am informed, take it under consideration: the Invasion which took place just before their rising prevented anything further being done till the departure of the Enemy from this place, and the return of the Executive to it. The proposition of undertaking the Work which you then again renewed was approved of by them, and they determined to procure if possible the several articles necessary for carrying it into immediate execution, according to a plan and estimate prepared by Col<sup>o</sup> Senf. I think however you misapprehended us when you understood it was agreed that the 40 Negroes & ten artificers required should be furnished by the five nearest Counties, and be at the spot the 7<sup>th</sup> instat; it does not occur to myself or any gentleman of the Council that the 7<sup>th</sup> or any other day was fixed on for their assembling, and that we could not have *agreed* that the 40 negroes & 10 artificers should be furnished by the five nearest Counties may be deduced from the conversation which you will recollect to have passed between us the evening before you Last went to Cabin point. You informed me you meant to call for 20 Militia from each of the five circumjacent counties to come to Hood's with their hoes and axes to erect the work, but to notify to them at the same time that you would receive 10 negroes in their room. And you asked me whether you must apply to Government for authority to do this: I answered, that such an application would produce no effect, as it had been the subject of conversation at the Council Board that day, and the board was of opinion we had no right to call out the militia to do fatigue duty. You then replied you could do it of your own authority and throw yourself on the Assembly for a justification. I repeat this conversation thus particularly to satisfy you that we could not have agreed that the five nearest counties should produce these labourers, and of course that we stand discharged of having failed to fulfill such an agreement. The executive have not by the Laws of this State any power to call a freeman to labour even for the public without his consent, nor a Slave without that of his master: sensible of this, when we first proposed to undertake this work, as you meant that Col<sup>o</sup> Senf should superintend it, I desired him to search among our artillery officers for one whom he would chuse to conduct it under his direction, and that this officer should immediately proceed to hire the slaves in the neighbourhood of Hood's, where I thought it most likely the people would be willing to hire as the work respected their safety more immediately: He did so, and sent a Cap<sup>t</sup> Allen on this business— in a subsequent journey to Petersburg Col<sup>o</sup> Senf informed me that he had himself engaged 8 or 10,

Four carpenters were assigned to Col<sup>o</sup> Senf at this place. The several articles of tools (except hoes & fascine knives and barrows were procured for him here, a boat to carry them down & I took it for granted that they went. The two blacksmiths are ready at this place when wanted. What success Cap<sup>t</sup> Allen has had is not reported to me. The Executive are far from thinking this work unnecessary; nor yet that it will be out of their power to furnish the necessaries for erecting it. Yet they may possibly be disappointed in their expectations of engaging voluntary Labourers, the only means in their power. Sensible that a necessary work is not to be abandoned because their means are not so energetic as they could wish them, and on the contrary that [it] is their duty to take those means as they find them & to make the most of them for the public good, they propose to pursue this work, and if they cannot accomplish it in a shorter, they will in a longer time.

From a review of these circumstances, I hope you will be persuaded that any delays which may have occurred have been produced by circumstances which it was not in our power to controul, and not from either a want of attention, or inclination to the work.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BROWNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 89.*)

Mr Jo<sup>n</sup> Brown

Richmond Feb<sup>r</sup>y 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

As the time for receiving the specific tax is approaching you will be pleased to instruct your deputies in the several Counties to receive all the articles except the tobacco and to apply them to the general purposes of the Commissary's and Quartermaster's departments. I inclose you orders on the Commissioners and Commissaries of the specific tax of the several counties to authorize your calling for those articles.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. BENJAMIN HARRISON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 90.*)

Speaker Harrison <sup>248</sup>

Richm<sup>d</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Col<sup>o</sup> John Gibson is appointed to go as next in Command under Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke on the business communicated to you. As Col<sup>o</sup> Gibson is now here he will return to Fort Pitt by the way of Baltimore to see the powder sent on, and prevent any danger of it's stopping by the way. Be so good as to lodge at Goddard's the Printer in Baltimore a line to Col<sup>o</sup> Gibson informing him in what state the procuring of the powder is, he will call there for it. That your information may be

<sup>248</sup>Mr. Harrison was then in Philadelphia, sent on a special mission to Congress from the General Assembly of Virginia to secure assistance for Virginia and the South. An illuminating letter written by him on February 16 to General Washington is printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 523.



perfect as we can render it, I am to inform you that the three months militia under Gen<sup>l</sup> Stevens in North Carolina, their number not known, are discharged, having served their term out. For Southern news I beg leave to refer you to the President of Congress, who has a letter from Baron Steuben giving information of the events in the neighbourhood of Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene, and one from myself as to the movements of the Enemy at Cape Fear. Arnold remains quiet. Col<sup>o</sup> Dunlap came out the first instant with 500 Men towards Suffolk. Gen<sup>l</sup> Lawson went down towards him with an equal number, whereon Dunlap returned in the night. They are drawing their shipping into shallow water and have a large vessel from N York cut down so as to mount twenty 24 pounders on one Deck.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 90.*)

Presid<sup>t</sup> of Congress <sup>249</sup>

Richmond Feb<sup>y</sup> 12, 1781.

*Sir*

The inclosed extract of a Lt<sup>re</sup> from Gove<sup>r</sup> Nash which I received this day being a confirmation of the intelligence I transmitted in a former letter I take the liberty of handing it forward to your Excellency. I am informed, thro' a private channel on which I have considerable reliance, that the enemy had landed 500 troops under the command of a Maj<sup>r</sup> Craig who were joined by a number disaffected, that they had penetrated 40 miles: that their aim appeared to be the magazine at Kingston from which place they were about 20 miles distant.

Baron Steuben transmits to your Excellency a copy of a letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene by which you will learn the events which have taken place in that quarter since the defeat of Col<sup>o</sup> Tarlton by Gen<sup>l</sup> Morgan. These events speak best for themselves & no doubt will suggest what is necessary to be done to prevent the successive losses of State after State to which the want of arms and of a regular Souldiery seem more especially to expose those in the South.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 91.*)

Baron Steuben

Richm<sup>d</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

The inclosed resolutions of Congress of Jan<sup>ry</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & Apr<sup>l</sup> 9, 1779 under which Capt. Heth's <sup>250</sup> independent company at Fort Pitt were

<sup>249</sup>Copy of letter was also sent to General Washington.

<sup>250</sup>Captain Henry Heth. He served on the frontier till 1782. There is a good deal about him and his company in "Frontier Advance on the Upper Ohio" and "Frontier Retreat on the Upper Ohio." Col. Daniel Brodhead had little respect for the efficiency of the company. See pp. 290 and 291 of "Frontier Advance on the Upper Ohio."

raised, will inform you of a condition to which they seem entitled of not being removed from that station without their consent: the subsequent one of Octo<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1780 incorporates them in positive terms into the troops of the State, the former resolutions were probably not recollected at the time. The footing on which therefore they seem to stand rightfully is to remain at Fort Pitt if they chuse it; but as it was the desire of Congress that they should be annexed to some of our regiments and Col<sup>o</sup> J. Gibson thinks they would rather join his than remain at Fort Pitt after losing their own Officers I beg leave to refer to you whether it might not be proper that you should order so many of them to be annexed to that regiment *as should be willing to join it*. This, while it pays due respect to a solemn engagement with those people, will probably effect the wish of Congress in reducing that as well as other detached Corps to some regular form.

FROM GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. CLARK.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 95.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke

In Council Febr<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Still having at heart the success of the expedition at the head of which you are placed, we have obtained leave from Baron Steuben for Colo Jo Gibson to attend you as next in command, and of course to succeed to your offices in the events of your death or captivity which however disagreeable in contemplation yet as being possible it is our duty to provide against. I have further added my most pressing request to Colo Broadhead that he permit Colo Gibson's regiment to be added to your force for the expedition, a request which I hope will be successful as coinciding with the spirit of Genl Washington's recommendations. Colo Gibson is to go by Baltimore to see the powder conveyed to Fort Pitt. The articles which were to be sent from this place to Frederic county were duly forwarded a few days after you left us. I wish you laurels and health. <sup>250a</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(*From Board of War Papers.*)

[This letter is not printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," but a copy of it—containing several errors—is found in the War Office Journal, p. 40. It is written on the back of a letter to Jefferson from Col. Muter asking for information as to exemptions from Military service.]

<sup>250a</sup>The original draft of this letter, in Jefferson's handwriting but unsigned, happens to have been preserved among the Virginia State archives. The last sentence was originally: "I wish you laurels and health and every success and felicity" etc. The words "every success and felicity" were stricken out. This notation is on the back of the paper: "From Gov<sup>r</sup> Jefferson to Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke—Entered".

Feb. 13, 1781.

The act of Assembly exempts all artificers in public service from military duty provided they be engaged *for 6 months at least*. This proves that they must be employed in public work alone, and of course will not exempt every person who happens to undertake to furnish the public with work by the peice.

When the clerk of the War Office shall be under marching orders I will give him a furlough.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 511.)

Feb. 13, 1781.

The bounty for continental enlistments for the war is 2000 dollars, *to be charged to the United States*, and the recruiting money to the officer is 180 dollars of which 80 are to be charged to the United States. the bounty in state enlistments (that is in the state regiments) is 750 dollars only, the recruiting money 150 dollars, the whole payable by the state.<sup>251</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. FRANCIS TAYLOR.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 92.)

Col<sup>o</sup> F. Taylor

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 13, 1781.

Sir,

The claim of the souldiers to discharges is by no means well founded as many of their enlistments were during the continuance of the Convention troops in this State, and others during their continuance in Albemarle. no occasional exit from the County with an intention to return can be considered as having broken off their continuance in the County & determined the enlistments. As however I conceive that these troops will be removed, I wish it were possible to re-inlist these men for the war. The bounty allowed is 2000 dollars. The treasury indeed is not at this time in condition to advance any money; but as the Assembly meets within three weeks for this very purpose I hope that within a somewhat longer space it will be replenished; this will in great measure disappoint M<sup>r</sup> Martin's present application for money during the same interval. We have it not in our power to furnish the cloathing required at present. I have formerly mentioned to you the provision made last summer by the Executive to obtain cloathing. I have now the pleasure to assure you that I have received late information that it will certainly be with us during the course of the two ensuing months & so escorted as not to fear a capture. The arrival of this will furnish all our troops plentifully.

Congress having determind newly to model their forces, the Baron Steuben is now here on that business. The Assembly have directed the Executive to have the same done as to the State-troops.

<sup>251</sup>This was written on back of letter from Col. Muter asking for information.

Your regiment being in Continental service will be submitted to Baron Steuben: till this be done, which however will be done within a few Days, no promotions can take place. Be so good as to inform the Gentlemen of your reg<sup>t</sup> who wrote to me on this subject that it will not be in my power to give an answer to their Letter till this arrangement is made. Some workmen in your neighbourhood will I believe receive orders to take some of your damaged Arms, be pleased to let them have those which require the greatest repairs and let the rest be boxed and sent here immediately. M<sup>r</sup> Martin will consult with M<sup>r</sup> Armistead what is to be done with the damaged cloathing; the price of the blankets used by the officers must be settled with the same gentleman. M<sup>r</sup> Brown received money about a fortnight ago sufficient to lay in animal food for your post for three months. Meal he is enabled to provide under the provision law.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN GIBSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 93.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> J<sup>o</sup> Gibson

Febr<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781 Richmond

Sir,

Having obtained leave from Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Baron Steuben that you should concur in an expedition across the Ohio under the command of Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke, I am to desire that you will in the first place take Baltimore in your way, at which place I have reason to believe four tons of powder have been furnished us by the Continental Board of War which we mean for this expedition. The obtaining this powder was to be negotiated by the Speaker Harrison who has been desired to lodge a letter at M<sup>r</sup> Goddard's the printer in Baltimore enabling you to take it under your care, yet it is possible it may have been furnished at Philadelphia instead of Baltimore, and that you may be obliged to take that in your route. In any event you will please to find it out and see it safely conveyed to Fort Pitt and delivered to Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke as the event of the expedition depends on his receiving this Supply. I send by you a letter to Col<sup>o</sup> Broadhead desiring that your regiment may be joined in this expedition to Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke's force, in which I hope to be gratified. You will take that or any other command which Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke shall assign you. In the events of Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke's death or captivity your rank and our confidence in you substitute you as his successor in the command; in which case you will prosecute the expedition under the instructions given to Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. DANIEL BRODHEAD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 94.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Broadhead [Brodhead]

Richm<sup>d</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I have duly received your favor by Col<sup>o</sup> Gibson. I am sorry to learn there is any scarcity of provisions in your settlement. Never-



theless I must suppose it too numerous to be at any time under a difficulty to support so moderate a Garrison as yours, if the means of drawing provisions from the people are furnished you. I apprehend your wants proceed rather from deficiencies of money than of provisions in which case our purchases will scarcely affect you as the forbearing them would not increase your stock of money: however from what Col<sup>o</sup> Gibson tells me I have reason to hope that animal food will in a great measure be procured on the south side of the boundary. Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington's Letter transmitted to you by Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke will no doubt have satisfied you how earnestly he espouses the service on which that Gen<sup>t</sup> is ordered and that it is his desire he should receive from you every aid of men and necessaries which you can help him to. I rely for your cordial execution of this desire on your zeal for the common cause as well as your respect for the wishes of the Commander in Chief. Col<sup>o</sup> Gibson at my request with his regiment is ordered by Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Baron Steuben on the same service.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR GEORGE LEE TURBERVILLE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 94.*)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Turberville<sup>252</sup>

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Your information that I had ordered furloughs to the Guard which brought up prisoners was without foundation as I never have in a single instance given or ordered a furlough. I consider it as my duty to furnish the number of men required by the Commanding Officer to provide them as far as our circumstances enable us, and to leave to him and those acting under him the direction of them: this prevents me from taking any steps on the other parts of your letter relating to the post at Dancing point, horsmen &c.

The deserters of the Militia are punishable by being sentenced by a Court Martial to six months service as regulars. The Continental rules of War are unfortunately not in force with the Militia while serving in their own State.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR GEOFFREY LINCTOT.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 95.*)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Lintot

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I received two Days ago your favor of Decem<sup>r</sup> 5. 1780 from Fort Pitt. It was the more acceptable as I had not before heard of you after your departure for that place on your way from W<sup>m</sup>sburg and

<sup>252</sup>Major Turberville was in command of the important post of Sandy Point. He had entered the regular service as captain in the 15th Virginia in December, 1776, was made major in May, 1778, and became aide-de-camp to General Charles Lee. He retired the 30th of Sept., 1778. He was now in command of militia. His letter to Jefferson to which the above is a reply, is printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 507, 508.

had really entertained fears that some accident had befallen you. The Letter you mention to have written informing me of your proceedings never came to hand and of course could not be answered. I having nothing to recommend but the Gen<sup>l</sup> office of preserving peace with such of the Indians whose conduct has not rendered chastisement necessary: peace and friendship with them is our desire and their interest. I am sorry that the events & continuance of the war have more & more increased our inability to furnish you with those necessities for the Indians which would facilitate the purposes of your mission to them. We have now the fullest assurance of regular & plentiful supplies of cloathing, arms, and military stores for our armies without requiring payment from our great Ally. Should this not be extended to supplies suitable to your department, it will leave us enabled to furnish those supplies ourselves; yet you cannot be too strenuous in preparing the minds of the Indians for disappointments and wants in these Articles should they happen contrary to our hope, and considering as the principal reward of their sufferings a hearty & cordial friendship with us, with free commerce and plentiful supplies on the restoration of peace, I wish you success in your endeavours and much health.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 96.*)

Baron Steuben

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

That the reformation of the troops of the Continent & State now on hand may be complete I beg leave to inclose you a return of Col<sup>o</sup> Taylor's regiment of guards. They are enlisted most of them to serve only during the continuance of the Saratoga troops in Albemarle. Their numbers being 238 noncommissioned & private I suppose should be reduced to four companies and officered accordingly; however as they are in Continental employ I beg leave to submit to you the forming them on the general model. Col<sup>o</sup> Taylor who commands it will carry into execution any orders you may think proper to give; if there be any other circumstances necessary for your information I shall take pleasure in communicating them on receiving intimation what they are.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO JONATHAN CLARK.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 97.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Jonathan Clarke.

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

As I expect to see Maj<sup>r</sup> Forsythe here within a few Days I must beg leave to postpone a definitive answer to your Letter 'till I am informed whether he has any and what objections to your demand, after which I will do myself the pleasure of writing you on the Subject.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WOOD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 97.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Wood

Richmond Febr<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I have laid before the Council the several Certificates you were pleased to inclose to me. They are very clear that an enlistment to serve untill the prisoners should be removed from Albemarle can by no fair construction be deemed at an end by any occasional crossing of the line with an intention to return. A man is not said to be removed from his residence by taking a journey from it. You will find endorsed on two Certificates and [an] opinion of the Board in favour of the parties. We cannot enlist men for 12 months but shall be glad to reinlist these for the War as I have no doubt but the Germans will be removed. M<sup>r</sup> Browne about a fortnight ago received money to purchase 3 months animal food for the Germans. Meal he is authorized by the provision law to procure.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 97.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Your suspension of Cap<sup>t</sup> Joel's enterprise<sup>253</sup> against the Enemy's fleet seems to have been well grounded, it was become so universally known as to leave little doubt of the Enemy's being apprised of it and of course prepared against it. Cap<sup>t</sup> Maxwell had some time before informed me that the Dragon had been devoted to this purpose, he at the same time assured me he had found it impossible to sell her as desired by the Assembly, & that she was not worth more than 50 pounds old money. This occasioned my acquiescence under her new destination, as she is ready prepared as a fire-ship and it is possible that future occasion may arise for using her as such against the present enemy. I think it will no[t] be amiss to suffer her to remain in the yard ready to be so applied.

We are very anxious, if it be possible, to avoid calling in a releif of Militia from fresh Counties untill the draught be over, as it is found impossible to execute the law where a great proportion of Militia is absent, and every thing is to be considered as calamitous which prevents the raising a permanent force of regulars.

<sup>253</sup>The rather resentful letter of B. Edgar Joel to the Governor is printed in "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, p. 501-2.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JAMES HENRY.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 98.)*M<sup>r</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> Henry—Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Gallies of which you are so kind as to give me information have been the subject of great misconduct in the Officers. They were first abandoned by Officers and men, and all their apparel and furniture left with themselves exposed to depredation. On information of this last summer, we ordered Commodore Baron to bring one of them over to the Western shore, to bring the other to the Bay side of the Eastern Shore from whence it might occasionally cooperate with our other Vessels, & to proceed against Officers and men for abandoning them. This however has not been done and from our present situation cannot be done. I will therefore ask the favor of you and give you Authority to have everything belonging to these Vessels of a movable nature stored in some safe place in the Hands of an honest Person, and the Hulls to remain as they are 'till we can be authorized to sell or enabled to repair them, we shall also be obliged to you to obtain for us information who has plundered any part of their appurtenances, who has borrowed, & who dared to lend them.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN B. EDGAR JOEL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 99.)*Cap<sup>t</sup> JoelRichmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am sorry that any circumstances have arisen to occasion the laying aside the enterprise which you had undertaken, bold in itself, and, if successful, advantageous. As it was however, pretty certain that the enemy had received notice of it, there seemed little hope of it's success for the present with however bold a hand it might have been conducted. Attempts of this kind have been generally deemed to depend for their issue on surprise, a little notice enables the enemy to withdraw from their pen or parry their approach. To prosecute them after such notice is to sacrifice the lives of the brave men who[se] conduct [would be] better reserved for other occasions; of these circumstances Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson to whom we referred the direction altogether, was better able to judge than we were at this distance. Some time hence perhaps the enemy may be again taken napping and the vessel being reserved in her present condition will give an opportunity of effecting whatever may be undertaken. The risk to which you had meant to expose yourself has furnished full proof of your zeal for our cause and will doubtless excite those sentiments of gratitude in every breast which it merits.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 99.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Muter

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

I must beg the favor of you to have immediate measures taken for the following purposes.

To send some of the worst Arms to Fredericksburg to be repaired at the Factory and by M<sup>r</sup> Hunter and to bring all the camp kettles in readiness.— To have five ton of powder brought from Baltimore at Continental expence to replace what we have lent them and to bring our Cartouch boxes.

To have all the lead at the mines or at Winston's brought down.

To send up James river to purchase 20, or 30 of the best Tobacco canoes on the river.

To have battery carriages made ready for 8 of the 18 lb<sup>s</sup> which are here. Baron Steuben proposes to place them immediately at Hood's. I have informed him there are 24 lb<sup>s</sup> at S. Quay, perhaps the carriages should be made fit for these should he prefer.

To order M<sup>r</sup> Armistead to deliver 60 oznabrigs shirts to Baron Steuben's order for Armand's Corps.

To find a proper person to send out to collect gunsmiths.

To find a proper person to send out to collect carpenters and to superintend them at work.

To fix temporary shops in the mean time here and at Westham and collect at these places all the Military Stores not in use elsewhere.

To set persons to making cartouch boxes.

To send to Albemarle for leather.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. CHARLES LYNCH.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 100.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> C. Lynch

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 15. 1781.

*Sir,*

The rapid approach of L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis renders it necessary for us to make a sudden and effectual opposition. If you can raise any body of volunteers and proceed immediately to oppose the enemy either by joining Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene or falling in with any other forces embodied, you will render essential service. I therefore pray you to do it, taking the command of the men yourself, and having such subordinate officers as shall be agreeable to the people and yourself. Subsist the men by calling on any Persons holding public Provisions, or by impressing under the Provision Law and returning a list of the certificates given, to the Auditors, or by furnishing themselves with provisions for which they shall be allowed by way of rations.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES WOOD.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 101.)*Col<sup>o</sup> James WoodRichmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 15, 1781.

Sir,

I have just received information from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene that L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis, maddened by his losses at the Cowpens and Georgetown has burnt his own waggons to enable himself to move with facility and has pressed forward as far as the Moravian towns,<sup>254</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene being obliged to retire before him with an inferior force. We are endeavouring to gather a force around him from which I hope he will not escape: nevertheless as the event is hastening on, 'till it be in some measure known, I think it will not only be prudent for you not to leave your present post, but to hold the Convention troops & guards in readiness to march at a moment's warning. I would also advise that you recall Cap<sup>t</sup> Reid's<sup>255</sup> troop, as it may be more useful with you if it be necessary to remove the Germans, and will be wanting here, should their removal be not necessary.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO SEVERAL PROMINENT MEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 101.)*

Letter for procuring Slaves.

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Col <sup>o</sup> Turner Southall <sup>256</sup> ..... | Henrico               |
| Maj <sup>r</sup> Goode.....                           | Chesterfield          |
| Col <sup>o</sup> Bannister.....                       | Dinwiddie             |
| Col <sup>o</sup> Call.....                            | Prince George         |
| .....   | Cha <sup>s</sup> City |

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 15, 1781.

Sir,

For the future protection of the Stores and Country on James river it has been thought necessary to erect a defensive work at Hood's. Among other requisites forty labouring Slaves are wanting for two months. After trying the exertions of the ordinary Officers to procure them we have been able to procure 13 only, who are to be at the place

<sup>254</sup>These towns were Bethabara (founded in 1753), Bethania (founded in 1759) and Salem (founded in 1766). All three still exist, but only Salem is of importance. That, however, is of considerable importance, being the sister city of Winston, the two being usually referred to as Winston-Salem. The story of these towns is found in "Records of the Moravians in North Carolina," edited by Miss Adelaide L. Fries, Archivist of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, and published by the North Carolina Historical Commission; also in "The Moravian Church; Yesterday and To-day," by Miss Adelaide L. Fries and J. Kenneth Pfohl.

<sup>255</sup>Captain Edmund Read (or Reade—not Reid), commanding a troop of Virginia light dragoons.

<sup>256</sup>Col. Turner Southall was county-lieutenant of Henrico; Major Robt. Goode (of "Whitby," a few miles below Richmond) a wealthy planter, to become later on a member of the Council of Virginia; Col. John Banister (of whom see *ante*); Col. William Call, county-lieutenant of Prince George.

on Monday next. I must therefore resort to the aid of the zealous Citizens in the Counties round about that post to endeavour to prevail on the people to spare labourers. Give me leave to beg your assistance in this way and to rely on you for procuring on the best terms you can within your County six able labouring slaves to be at Hoods immediately and to continue there two months. To this be so good as to add the further favor of informing me from time to time of your success.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 102.*)

Several County Lieu<sup>ts</sup>

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 15, 1781.

Sir,

I have just received intelligence from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene that Lord Cornwallis, maddened by his losses at the Cowpens and George town, has burnt his own waggons to enable himself to move with facility, & is pressing forward towards the Virginia line, Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene being obliged to retire before him with an inferior force. The necessity of saving Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene's army and in doing that the probability of environing and destroying the Army of the enemy induce me to press you in the most earnest terms, in the instant of receiving this to collect one<sup>256a</sup> of your militia, and send them forward well armed and accoutred under proper Officers to repair to the orders of Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene wherever he shall be, by this movement of our enemy he has ventured his all on one Stake. Our stroke is sure if the force turns out which I have ordered & without delay, in such a crisis expedition decides the event of the contest. reflecting that it depends in a great measure on your personal exertions in effecting a rapid juncture of your men with Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene whether the southern war be terminated by the Capture of the hostile Army or entailed on us by permitting them to fix in our bowels I cannot beleive you will rest a moment after receiving this till you see your men under march. they must be subsisted on their way on whatever can be furnished by any person holding public provision or by impressing under the invasion law returning to the Auditors lists of the certificates they give, or by taking provisions with them for which they shall be allowed by way of rat<sup>ons</sup>.

This order necessarily interrupts the execution of the draught law; it would be too oppressive on those spirited men who shall now turn out, to have that law carried into execut on, when they should not be on the spot to act for themselves I would therefore advise you to postpone it untill their return and I will undertake to lay it before the assembly which is shortly to meet, who I cannot doubt will approve of the suspension and allow the execution of the law at a future day.

<sup>256a</sup>The copy of this letter sent to Col. William Preston has found its way to the Virginia State Library. The blank after the word "one" is filled with the word "fourth."

Should the approach of danger and your public spirit have already called any men from your County to the aid of Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene, they will be counted in lieu of so many of the number now ordered.

P. S. It is possible that you may have made such progress already in the draught as to render the immediate completion of it not only practicable but more elig ble to the people on the whole than to discontinue it now & res me it hereafter. In this case use your own judgment & act for the best.

|                | whole | half | fourth |                                   |                                   |
|----------------|-------|------|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Washington..   | 829   | 414  | 207    | Under this letter..... 1564       |                                   |
| Montgomery.    | 750   | 375  | 187    | Chest <sup>d</sup> C. H. .... 400 |                                   |
| Botetourt....  | 509   | 294  | 147    | Riflemen below..... 800           |                                   |
|                |       | 1083 | 541    | 2764                              |                                   |
| Henry.....     | 1004  | 502  | 251    | 1083                              | Of whom 1883 would<br>be riflemen |
| Pittsylvania.. | 923   | 461  | 230    | 481                               |                                   |
|                |       | 963  | 481    | 1564                              |                                   |
|                |       | 2046 | 1022   |                                   |                                   |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 103.)

Baron Steuben

Richmond Fb<sup>ry</sup> 15, 1781.

Sir,

I received last night a letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene refering me for particulars to you, however he gives me enough to convince me that reinforcements of Militia must be sent him. I think the most speedy and effectual reinforcement would be the militia of Rockbridge, vAugusta, Rockingham & Shenandoah now encamped below, provided they can be induced to go willingly. The length of their march heretofore, and having been sometime in service seems to give them a right to be consulted. I leave the detaching them to the aid of Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene to your better judgment. Should you approve of it and think it necessary to call other Militia to take their place, I will order others. Besides this reinforcement to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene I propose to order from. Washington, Montgomery, & Botetourt 540 (riflemen) and from Pittsylvania & Henry 480 who will want Arms. to these add the detachment at Chesterfield C. H. I send out today the orders to Washington, Montgomery, Botetourt, Pittsylvania Henry. If you would advise any more, and think they can be armed, more shall be sent.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 104.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 16. 1781.

*Sir,*

I am very anxious to prepare for cooperating with our Allies & for providing for their support. For y<sup>e</sup> former purpose measures are taking as agreed on this moment in a conference with Baron Steuben. for the latter we suppose Yorktown the most effectual to prepare as an Asylum for their Vessels. Col<sup>o</sup> Senf comes down w<sup>th</sup> instructions to point out what may be done there in a short time; the Baron will send Col<sup>o</sup> Harrison or some other artillery officer to superintend the execution of what he shall plan; and I must resort to your influence to take such measures as may call in a sufficient number of labourers with their tools to execute the Work. Whatever you do for this purpose shall be approved by us. The County of Gloucester alone can probably furnish many hands. Those in y<sup>e</sup> neck I trust will also be forwarded.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
BERKELEY AND FREDERICK AND HAMPSHIRE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 105.*)

County Lieut<sup>ts</sup> of Berkely & Frederick [and Hampshire]<sup>257</sup>

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 16, 1781.

*Sir,*

I have with exceeding distress of mind received information that the service to which the Militia of the counties of Frederick and Berkely have been called Westwardly is so disagreeable as to render it probable that that call will be very imperfectly obeyed. A knowledge that an extensive combination of Indians had been formed to come on our frontier early in the spring induced us to prevent them by striking the first stroke. The Counties Westward of the Allegany were called on in the first place, and their numbers not sufficing, it was concluded to make them up by a call on some of the Counties on this side the Allegany. Those of Hampshire, Berkly, & Frederic were deemed the most proper as being the nearest to Pittsburg and farthest from the Southern war. the expedition if carried to the greatest extent would end by the last of June. Should this expedition be discontinued, the savages will be spread on our whole Western frontier: in that case not a man can be brought during the whole summer from the Western side of the Blue-ridge; and what will be the consequence of leaving the Army of L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis and the Army at Portsmouth to be opposed by the lower country only, I had rather the friends of their Country should reflect than I foretell. We are all

<sup>257</sup>Hampshire is added on the authority of an entry in the Council journal for February 16, 1781, and, indeed, of the sentence in the letter itself "Those of Hampshire, Berkly & Frederic were deemed the most proper," etc.

embarked in one bottom, the Western end of which cannot swim while the Eastern sinks. I am thoroughly satisfied that nothing can keep us up but the keeping off the Indians from our Western quarter; that this cannot be done, but by pushing the war into their Country; and that this cannot be attempted but with effectual aid from those three counties. This reasoning is simple, and the conclusion of it melancholy. A hope is held out to us that an aid as effectual can be obtained from your County by the engaging of Volunteers to go instead of the Militia. Trusting to this assurance and the zeal of your people which never before has failed us, I will so far throw our safety on them, as to revoke the orders for their peremptory march as militia and depend on their sending a sufficient number of Volunteers. These Volunteers must proceed according to the orders given as to the militia except that some extension of the time must be admitted. This I leave to your discretion. Be punctual in advising Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke & myself from time to time of your progress & expectations.

P. S. [to the Frederic Lte.]

I rely on you in every event to send forward to Pittsburg under a proper escort the Stores sent on to you from different places as advised in my original letter.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN ——— ALLEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 107.*)

Capt Allen

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 16, 1781.

Sir,

It having been concluded to build a defensive work at Hoods under the direction of Col<sup>o</sup> Senf, I am to desire the favor of you to see to the execution of it according to his instructions. Thirteen Labourers will be with you on monday next— besides these I have written to Col<sup>o</sup> Southall of this County, Col<sup>o</sup> Banister of Dinwiddie, Col<sup>o</sup> Call of Prince George & Col<sup>o</sup> Mumford [Munford] of Charl<sup>s</sup> City to procure each of them six & send them to you as soon as procured. Carpenters went from this place, & Col<sup>o</sup> Senf informed me there were smiths at the place. Of the 13 Slaves who will be with you on monday, one belonging to M<sup>r</sup> Ryland Randolph is a bricklayer. I shall endeavour to have three or four more bricklayers engaged. Vessels being wanting to transport your bricks & lime, I must get you to go out to procure them on hire if you can, & if not they must be taken. Col<sup>o</sup> Senf mentions two Schooners or flats belonging to Joshua Poythress at Blandford<sup>258</sup> which would suit; these or such others as are proper you will engage. If Lime cannot be got nearer to you I expect it may be had at Petersburg & this place. Being informed you have no provisions I give orders now to the Commissary on that head. As Col<sup>o</sup> Senf will be with you occasionally you will be pleased to apprise me from time to time of your wants to carry on the work.

<sup>258</sup>A small town on the Appomattox just below Petersburg—now a part of Petersburg.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN JAMES MAXWELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 108.*)

Capt<sup>t</sup> Maxwell

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 16, 1781.

Sir,

The arrival of a French naval force will render it necessary for us to put into immediate order for service & to man every Vessel we have capable of rendering any service. You will therefore be pleased to have this done, and to have the Vessels kept in readiness to move at a moment's warning. You are also desired, having left this matter in a proper train, to proceed yourself & examine the different armed Vessels in James river which in your opinion might be of service in an enterprize on the British fleet in Elizabeth river, to report to us their condition & to endeavour to engage them to enter into that Service.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CLAIBORNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 108.*)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Claiborne

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 16, 1781.

Sir,

Baron Steuben being very desirous to have as large a collection of Boats made as possible & joined to those he now has at Sandy Point, you are hereby authorized to impress all boats proper for the transportation of troops in James or Appomattox rivers (excepting only one horse Boat at every ferry, & such cases of extreme hardship as in your discretion you shall think should exempt the Parties from this order). You will of course take the usual methods for appraising the Vessels and their use by the day. When seized you will have them carried to Sandy Point or wherever else the other Boats shall be and delivered to the commanding Officer there.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN BANISTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 109.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Jo<sup>n</sup> Bannister

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17. 1781.

Dr Sir,

Your letter was put into my hands on the evening of the day before yesterday by a young Gentleman whom I informed that it could not be answered till the meeting of Council the next day, and desired he would attend with the receipt which he said he had, for it was not inclosed in the letter as you mentioned. he did not call again. I laid your letter before the Council: As far as our money will hold out they are desirous of paying, particularly monies advanced or due to Artificers, or for necessaries for the Army. Of this nature is your advance for the cartridge boxes. What the other part of the demand was for, they are not particularly informed. They

wish however to know before any order is made, the articles for which these monies are paid, by whose order, and to whom the articles have been delivered. As there remained yesterday but 40,000 pounds— in the Treasury and every day brings considerable calls, I hope you will be so kind as to furnish the specification desired before this be drawn out. Should it however be otherwise it will be but ten days to the meeting of the Assembly when I hope a replenishment of the treasury will take place.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GREENE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 109.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17, 1781.

*Sir*

In the moment of receiving your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> I issued orders to the Counties of Washington, Montgomery, Botetourt & Bedford for seven hundred and odd riflemen and to those of Henry & Pittsylvania for four hundred and odd of their Militia. Yet my trust is that neither these nor the adjacent counties have awaited orders, but that they have turned out and will have joined you in greater numbers than we have directed. The reinforcement from Chesterf<sup>d</sup> Court House cannot march these ten days. I shall be glad if you will call on the neighbouring County Lieutenants for any succours which you may want, & circumstances forbid to be delayed. A minute communication of events to us, will be very necessary as we wish as far as we are able to increase the opposing force, if that already ordered shall be insufficient. This change of position has thrown us into great doubt where to collect our provisions.

Two days ago I received notice of the arrival of a 64 gun ship & two frigates of 36 each, part of the French fleet at Rhode Island, having yet had no communication of the views of the Commanding officer (Commodore Tilly) I cannot say to what measures this aid will lead. They are equal to the destruction of the British Vessels, could they get at them, but these are drawn up into Elizabeth river into which the 64 cannot enter.

I am &c

P. S. Since writing the above we are told L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis has advanced to the Roanoke. I am in consequence issuing orders to embody every man between this & that for whom a firelock can be procured & that they march to join you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, ALSO  
TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 115.*)

The Presd<sup>t</sup> of Congress & Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17, 1781.

*Sir*

By a Letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene dated Guilford C. house Feb<sup>ry</sup> 10. we are informed that L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis had burnt his own wa gons



in order to enable himself to move with greater facility and had pressed immediately on. The prisoners taken at the Cowpens were happily saved by the accidental rise of a water-course which gave so much time as to withdraw them from the reach of the enemy. L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis had advanced to the vicinities of the Moravian towns and was still moving on rapidly. His object was supposed to be to compel Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene to an action, which under the difference of force they had, would probably be ruinous to the latter. Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene meant to retire by the way of Boyd's ferry on the Roanoke. As yet he had lost little or no stores or baggage, but they were far from being safe. In the instant of receiving this intelligence we ordered a reinforcement of Militia to him from the most convenient Counties in which there was a hope of finding any arms. Some great event must arise from the present situation of things which for a long time will determine the condition of Southern affairs. I shall direct the prisoners of the Cowpens to be marched on through this State to such place as you shall please to determine on for their Station.

Arnold lies close in his quarters—two days ago I received information of the arrival of a 64 gun ship and two frigates in our Bay, being part of the fleet of our good Ally at Rhode Island. Could they get at the British fleet here they are able to destroy them, but these being drawn up into Elizabeth river, into which the Sixty four cannot enter, I apprehend they could do no more than block up the river. This indeed would reduce the enemy, as we could cut off their supplies by land: but the operation being lengthy would probably be too dangerous for the auxiliary force. Not having as yet had any particular information of the designs of the French Commander I cannot pretend to say what measures this aid will lead to.

Our proposition to the Cherokee chiefs to visit Congress for the purpose of preventing or delaying a rupture with that nation was too late, their distresses had too much ripened their alienation from us, and the Storm had gathered to a head, when Maj<sup>r</sup> Martin got back. It was determined to carry the war into their country rather than await it in ours, and I have it in my power to inform you that thus disagreeably circumstanced the issue has been successful. The militia of this State & N. Carolina penetrated into their Country, burnt almost every town they had, amounting to about 1000 houses in the whole, destroyed 50,000 bushels of grain. killed and took prisoners;<sup>258a</sup> the latter are mostly women & children. I enclose your Excellency the particulars as reported to me. Congress will be pleased to determine on Col<sup>o</sup> Campbell's proposition to build the fort at the confluence of the Holsten and Tanissee.

P. S. Since writing the above I have received information which tho' not authentic commands attention, that L. Cornwallis had got

<sup>258a</sup>In this letter as given by Ford, Vol. II, p. 455, the number of killed is given as 29 and the number of prisoners as 17.

Boyd's Ferry, mentioned in the first part of the letter, was a ferry over the Dan River in Halifax County—not over the Roanoke. Jefferson's reference here to the Roanoke is a mere slip of the pen. Not very far down the river from Boyd's Ferry the Dan and the Staunton come together to form the Roanoke, and not many miles down that stream was Taylor's Ferry, frequently mentioned in these letters.

to Boyd's ferry on the 14<sup>th</sup>. I am issuing orders in consequence to other Counties to embody & march all the men they can arm. In this fatal situation without arms there will be no safety for the Convention Troops but in their removal, which I shall accordingly order. The Prisoners of the Cowpens were at New London (Bedford Court-House) on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

[Before the P. S. is inserted:']

Pr<sup>s</sup> of Congress.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington, leaving out the last two sentences & the sentence about the march of prisoners.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. THOMAS READ.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 110.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> T. Read<sup>258b</sup> of Charlotte

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17, 1781.

Sir,

I had received two days ago information from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene of the advance of L. Cornwallis & immediately ordered about 1200 Men from Washington, Montgomery, Botetourt Bedford, Henry & Pittsylvania. Besides this I trusted that the Militia of other Counties immediately in their way would turn out with Spirit. If this be done I hope a very good account will be rendered of L. Cornwallis. Your calling forth the whole strength of your country & the same measure by every county Lieut. would be greatly approved to obtain so great an object. We did not call on your Counties particularly, because they had been called to Portsmouth, but every extra exertion of spirit will be very serviceable. Where Situations may shift every moment so rapidly I can only leave you to your own discretion recommending the most strenuous exertions to oppose the Enemy.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 111.*)

Baron Steuben

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17, 1781.

Sir,

M<sup>r</sup> Loyall from the post at the North West Bridge representing to me that about 400 of the Militia of Princess Anne & Norfolk are embodied, that they annoy the Enemy considerably, restraining their foraging Parties, and checking their motions (which latter circumstance is confirmed by a letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Lawson) but that they are dispirited for want of some communication with the main Army on the Northern end of the Dismal, and meditating to lay down their Arms: I submit to yourself the propriety of establishing a line of Riders from Gen<sup>l</sup> Gregory's<sup>259</sup> Camp to such of your Posts as you shall think proper. Your order (if you think proper) to Col<sup>o</sup> Elliot the field Quar-

<sup>258b</sup>Colonel Thomas Read was county-lieutenant of Charlotte County.

<sup>259</sup>General Isaac Gregory was brigadier-general of North Carolina militia, commanding at that time in the north-eastern part of the State.

ter Master will suffice to effect this. I have taken the liberty of referring M<sup>r</sup> Loyall to you. He will also speak with you on the subject of Arms; but as those already embodied, are armed, I cannot but doubt the expediency of sending any from our stock under present circumstances. I order the Commissary to send a Deputy to subside these Men on the East of the Dismal. Every circumstance of notice will keep up their Spirits: and if the Enemy can be restrained from foraging below Portsmouth as well as above, they will be less easy in their situation.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. ARTHUR CAMPBELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 112.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Campbell

Richmond, February 17, 1781.

Sir,—

I have received your several favors by N<sup>r</sup> Lathim and am much pleased at the happy issue of the expedition against the Cherokees. I wish it to be used for the purpose of bringing about peace, which under our present circumstances is as necessary for us as it can possibly be to them. If you can effect this a right should be reserved of building a fort at the confluence of Holston and Tanissee; a matter which we must refer to Congress as it lies not within our boundary. The prisoners you have taken had better be kept for the purpose of exchanging for any of ours taken by them. Should any surplus be on hand at the conclusion of peace they should be given up. Nancy Ward<sup>259a</sup> seems rather to have taken refuge with you; In this case, her inclination ought to be followed as to what is done with her. As by our laws the pay of Militia is made the same with that of the Continental troops, and that, by a resolution of Congress, is to be in the new money of March 18. 1780, or in old money at forty for one. I apprehend you will be paid at that rate. By a late arrangement the Commissary is directed to have a deputy in every County. I hope that by their means the Militia may henceforward be better supplied with provisions when proceeding on any expedition. The Fort at Powell's valley you will please to proceed on. We approve of the Company you have raised for patrolling against the Indians & garrisoning the Fort.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GATES.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 457, and the Jefferson Manuscripts in the Library of Congress.*)

Richmond Feb. 17 1781.

Dear General,— The situation of affairs here & in Caroline is such as must shortly turn up important events one way or the other.

<sup>259a</sup>Nancy Ward was a Cherokee Indian woman who had in 1776 warned the settlements of an impending attack.

By letter from Genl Greene dated Guilford C. house, Feb. 10 Ld. Cornwallis rendered furious by the affair at the Cowpens & surprise of George town had burnt his own waggons to enable himself to move with facility had pressed on to the vicinities of the Moravian towns & was still advancing. the prisoners taken at the Cowpens were saved by a hair's breadth accident, and Greene was retreating. his force 2000 regulars and no militia, Cornwallis's 3000. Genl Davidson<sup>260</sup> was killed in a skirmish. Arnold lies still at Portsmouth with 1500 men. a French 64 gun ship & 2 frigates of 36 each arrived in our bay three days ago. they would suffice to destroy the British shipping here (a 40, 4 frigates & a 20) could they get at them. but these are withdrawn up Elizabeth river which the 64 cannot enter. we have ordered about 700 riflemen from Washington Montgomery & Bedford and 500 common militia from Pittsylvania & Henry to reinforce Genl. Greene, and 500 new levies will march from Chestfd C. H. in a few days. I have no doubt however that the Southwestern Counties will have turned out in greater numbers before our orders reach them.

I have been knocking at the door of Congress for aids of all kinds, but especially of arms ever since the middle of summer. the Speaker Harrison is gone to be heard on that subject. justice indeed requires that we should be aided powerfully. yet if they would repay us the arms we have lent them we should give the enemy trouble tho' abandoned to ourselves.

After repeated applications I have obtained a warrant for your advance money £18,000 which I have put into the hands of Mr. McAlister to receive the money from the Treasurer & carry it to you.<sup>261</sup>

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CLAIBORNE.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 113.)

Richmond Feb<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir

I have submitted your Letter of yesterday to the consideration of the Gentlemen of the Council who are present. It is thought that as the Letter of the Dra'ft Law has left it to the Militia Officers to determine who are the proper Subjects of the Law, so the exemptions specified by the Law itself imply that no others shall be allowed. Whether the Staff Officers of the Continent or State are entitled to exemptions was proper for the determination of the Legislature: The Executive therefore do not intermeddle in it

<sup>260</sup>General William Lee Davidson, brigadier-general of N. Ca. militia, killed at McCowan's Ford, Feb. 1, 1781.

<sup>261</sup>This letter was not copied into the letter book, but Jefferson made a copy of it himself. The copy is among the Jefferson manuscripts in the Library of Congress and is the source of the text given above. The immediate source is Ford, but the text in Ford has been compared with the copy (in Jefferson's own handwriting) in the Library of Congress, and one or two corrections made. Mr. Ford's guess that the letter was written to General Gates is probably correct. General Gates had retired to his estate in Berkeley County, and had as neighbors General Adam Stephen and General Charles Lee.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO CERTAIN COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 113.*)

County Lieut<sup>ts</sup> of Loudon, Fairfax, Pri<sup>ce</sup> William & Fauquier.

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17, 1781.

Sir,

You will be pleased immediately on receipt of this, to order one fourth of your Militia to be assembled and marched without delay to W<sup>ms</sup>burg under proper field officers, captains, & Subalterns. Send as many riflemen among them with their rifles as can be had, and of the rest let every man bring a good musket and accoutrements who has one. Let them proceed first to Fredericksburg where we shall endeavour to have such armed as bring no arms of their own; from thence they must proceed to W<sup>ms</sup>burg. They will be subsisted as directed by the Invasion law, only that where any public provisions can be had, it would be better they should draw than impress. A baggage Waggon must come for every 75 men, to remain in duty as long as the men do.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONELS DONELLY, BROWN, AND HAMILTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 114.*)

Col<sup>os</sup> And<sup>rw</sup> Donelly, Sam<sup>l</sup> Brown, & And<sup>rw</sup> Hami ton of Greenbrier

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17. 1781

Gentlemen.

I am fully sensible of the pressure of the several calls which are made on your county for Militia and for regulars at the same time, and should not have been induced to urge the first of these at the time we did, but to counteract and prevent movements meditated against you by the savage enemy in the West. I beg you to believe also that these calls are not made on your county alone, at present they are nearly general through the whole Counties; we have to oppose the Indians in the Northwest, L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis in the South, and Arnold in the East. However in consideration of the dangers to which you will be exposed on the departure of your Militia; I will undertake to approve of your postponing the raising your regular recruits 'till the expedition under Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke may be supposed to have advanced so far as to leave no danger of molestation to your county from the Indians; and will lay this before the assembly to obtain a legislative sanction.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 114.*)

Baron Steuben—

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17, 1781.

Sir,

I have laid before the Council the proposition for exchanging two of the British souldiers for M<sup>r</sup> Hurst & M<sup>r</sup> Locke, on condition

that we give Col<sup>o</sup> Alligood<sup>262</sup> for Col<sup>o</sup> Warner. I am sorry the enemy should annex impossibilities to their proposition, as it seems to throw on us the refusal to exchange. Co<sup>o</sup> Alligood has been proposed in exchange for Col<sup>o</sup> Matthews a full Col<sup>o</sup> who has been in captivity ever since the Battle of Germantown. Warner is only a Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colo. taken the other day, if he were taken at all, of which no evidence has come to my knowledge. Both rank and turn therefore prohibit this part of the exchange.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. STEPHEN SOUTHALL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 117.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Stephen Southall [assistant quartermaster general—State]

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 17. 1781.

Sir,

An extreme throng of business prevented my answering your L<sup>tr</sup>e yesterday. The order then given of which you sent me a copy was not a general order but a special one in behalf of the bearers whoever they were. I think it was in the case of y<sup>e</sup> waggoners employed by Maj<sup>r</sup> Pierce at Baltimore who had made them a special promise. It is certainly just that all should receive a reasonable price for their Waggon. Twenty pounds at that time was but 6/8 old money, which is but little more than the half of what waggon hire used to be; and that article for very good reasons should be higher now than formerly. The waggoners whom you have referred to M<sup>r</sup> Rose were employed by the Continent. Why should not the Continent pay them the just & full price? Why should this State undertake to pay the difference between the price you allow & that which would be just & be under the disagreeable necessity of urging an allowance of it in future? We think it unreasonable & therefore forbade our Q Master to pay that difference except in the single instance before mentioned where the waggoners had been engaged on the faith of the State. Major Caiborne allows now 50 lb of Tob<sup>o</sup> a day: why

<sup>262</sup>This should be Ellegood—Col. Jacob Ellegood, an influential Tory who had been held as a prisoner from the beginning of the war.

Warner, also, should probably be Warneck. There was a Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Warnick in the service of the State at that time, in reference to whom the following entry is found in the Council Journal for February 20, 1781:

Lieutenant Colonel Warnick, Engineer to the Commonwealth, acknowledging himself to have been taken by the enemy and producing a Copy of the Parole he gave; the board advise, that the said Parole be submitted to a board of Officers to declare their Opinion whether an Officer giving one in such a form should not be remitted into the hands of the enemy, that the same may be cancelled, or whe ther any and what other proceedings, should be had thereon.

The State, by the captivity of the said Lieutenant Colonel Warnick, being left without an Engineer, the board is of Opinion that John Christian Senf be appointed Engineer to this Commonwealth, with the rank, pay and emoluments of a Lieut Colonel, that he be allowed the use of two Public horses, and his reasonable expences, while travelling from Post to Post on the necessary Duties of his Office. And as he has been actually serving the State as Engineer during the present invasion, it is thought reasonable that his said pay rations and forage be allowed from the first Day of January in the present year.

not allow it in earlier instances? the people have a right to recover the true worth of their Services, & no doubt the laws have provided them a remedy. I suppose I have mentioned to one or two of them that the remedy must be against the person employing or impressing them.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CERTAIN COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 118.*)

County Lieut<sup>s</sup> of Lunenburg, Amelia, Powhatan, Cumberland and Brunswick

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 18, 1781.

Sir,

Not knowing where the very rapid march of L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis may terminate I think it necessary to desire that you immediately assemble the whole of your Militia who have arms, or for whom they can be procured by impressing or otherwise and march them with proper officers without delay to join Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene who by the last intelligence had crossed the Dan at Boyd's ferry & was retreating before the enemy. The emergency is so extreme that I must rely on your losing not a moment's time in executing this order. I shall be glad to be informed of the numbers you equip and time of their march.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 118.*)

Baron Steuben

Sir,

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 18, 1781.

I have this moment received intelligence that Lord Cornwallis continues his rapid approach and there is reason to believe he was at Roanoke on the 14<sup>th</sup> this information is not authentic yet it comes in such manner as to command some attention. I have therefore thought it expedient to order every man of the counties of Powhatan, Cumberland, Amelia, Lunenburg and Brunswick who has a firelock or for whom one can be procured to be embodied & marched immediately to join Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene and those of the counties of Chesterfield & Dinwiddie to be embodied but not marched 'till further orders which they may receive at the moment of embodying better adapted to actual circumstances. I am aware of the possibility that my information may be premature, yet as it's truth is equally possible and the consequences of disregarding it might be so much more fatal I think it my duty to take this measure.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CERTAIN COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 119.*)

County Lieut<sup>s</sup> of Chesterfield & Dinwiddie.

Sir,

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 18, 1781.

Not knowing where the very rapid march of L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis may terminate, I think it necessary to desire that every man of your Militia

who has a firelock or for whom one can be procured by impressing or otherwise be immediately embodied under proper Officers. I do not herein give orders for their march because you are so convenient that you can without it's causing but little delay give me notice when your men are embodied, and I may then give you orders suited to the actual situation of things at the time.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES WOOD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 119.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Wood

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 18, 1781.

Sir,

L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis's approaches are so rapid that we know not where they will terminate. He was at Boyd's ferry on the 14<sup>th</sup> in<sup>st</sup>. Without arms as our countrymen are there is no safety for the Convention troops but in their removal: you will therefore be pleased to remove them in the instant of receiving this, only allowing them time to pack their baggage that it may follow them in waggons. As the prisoners taken at the Cowpens will be [in] Staunton by the time this reaches you, & will proceed on along that Valley, I think it most advisable that you should keep below the blue-ridge: but of this you will judge yourself. Time does not allow me to send you formal warrants for taking provisions: I can therefore only give you this general authority to issue such warrants yourself. I have given notice to Congress of this measure who will no doubt send you orders at what place these people shall end their journey.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR EDMUND MASSINGBERD  
HYRNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 120.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Hyrne <sup>263</sup> Commis<sup>ry</sup> Prisoners.

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 18, 1781.

Sir,

I have just rec<sup>d</sup> your favor of the 14th inst. from New London, and expect this will find you at Staunton. I formerly advertised Congress of the necessity of sending these prisoners on Northwardly, and have again yesterday given them notice that the rapid approach of L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis who was at Boyd's ferry on the 14<sup>th</sup> rendered it necessary to send on both these & the Convention prisoners without delay. The whole would form a great object for Lord Cornwallis & nothing between him & them but an unarmed Country abounding with disaffected. The Dep<sup>y</sup> Com<sup>ry</sup> of prisoners in this State is M<sup>r</sup> Boush at Winchester. You will be pleased to take such measures for delivering the prisoners to him as you think best, either conduct-

<sup>263</sup>Major Hyrne, of South Carolina, aide-de-camp to General Greene, on a special mission to conduct the prisoners, taken at the Cowpens to the northward. Later for his gallant conduct at Eutaw Springs he received the thanks of Congress.



ing them that far yourself, or sending for him to meet you. I suppose you to have guard on them at present which may attend them to Shenandoah C. H. I inclose a letter to the County Lieut. of Shenandoah to have such guard ready there & at such time as you shall direct, who may attend them to the Potowmack. Before you get that far you will doubtless receive the orders of Congress fixing their ultimate destination. For provisions I can only refer you to the Commission<sup>rs</sup> of the provision Law in the several Counties through which you will pass, tho' if they cannot furnish you, the Commissary attending you must impress, giving certificates of the Articles seized & their value, & returning to the Auditors a list of the certificates given.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
SHENANDOAH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 119.*)

County Lieut of Shenandoah

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 18, 1781.

Sir,

The prisoners taken at the Battle of the Cowpens being to pass under the conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Hyrne or M<sup>r</sup> Boush Commissaries of Prisoners, they will be attended by the guard at present with them as far as Shenandoah Court House. There you will be pleased to have assembled such guard & at such time as either of these Gentlemen shall fix on, which guard must see them safely over the Potowmack.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
AUGUSTA.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 121.*)

County Lieut of Augusta

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 18, 1781.

Sir,

Before the receipt of this letter I expect you will have furnished M<sup>r</sup> Hyrne Dep<sup>ty</sup> Com<sup>ssy</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Prisoners with a guard for the safe custody of the prisoners taken at the Battle of the Cowpens. You will be pleased to continue that guard on duty with the prisoners untill relieved by one from Shenandoah as ordered.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR CHARLES MAGILL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 121.*)

Maj<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill—<sup>264</sup>

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 18, 1781.

Sir,

The situation of Southern affairs having become very interesting

<sup>264</sup>Major Charles Magill was sent by Jefferson as a special observer to General Greene's headquarters. The letters written by him—very interesting—are printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," Vol. I.

to this State, I am to desire the favor of you to proceed without delay to the head Quarters of Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene, to remain there or at any other place, from [which] you shall think the best intelligence may be obtained. You will be pleased to communicate to me the interesting movements of both Armies, the calls which shall be made on our Counties for Supplies of me, provisions & other things, how these calls are complied with, what shall appear to be the spirit of the People, what is doing in the rear of L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis & such other facts as you shall think important. There is a line of stationed-Expresses from hence to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene's Camp, which you will put into motion whenever you shall have any thing to communicate. You would do well to enquire of Col<sup>o</sup> Elliot at Petersburg, the particular places at which these Expresses are stationed, to visit & rectify any thing amiss in them as you pass along. Your Expences in this service shall be borne by the public.—

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GREENE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 122.)*

Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19, 1781.

Sir,

I wrote you in haste yesterday by the return of your express in answer to your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Maj<sup>r</sup> McGill not being able to set out till this morning, furnishes me with an opportunity of inclosing you regular blank powers of impress to be directed to such persons as you shall think proper for impressing horses for your dragoons.

When we ordered out the Militia from the several counties, we ordered them to go properly officered, as we had no certainty of there being any regular officers ready to command them. There is now a great collection of regular officers at Chesterf<sup>ld</sup> C. H. met for the purpose of arranging our Line and discharging it of supernumeraries. As there are not regulars for even those who will remain in the Service to command, I shall submit to Baron Steuben whether besides requesting all those who shall be declared supernumerary to go to you, it may not be expedient to send those also who tho' remaining of the Line cannot have a present command for want of men. If these go, it will be in your power to permit such of the Militia officers to return home as chuse it, and joining the men into small battalions to dispose of both regular & militia officers as you please. Baron Steuben has availed himself at Suffolk of the regular Officers by forming the Militia into regiments of 400 each, and dividing the regiment into two battalions of 200 each. This gave room for the regular Officers, who of course commanded those of the Militia of the same rank; however this & every other plan is submitted to yourself.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
CHESTERFIELD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 123.*)

County Lieut. of Chesterfield

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19, 1781.

Sir,

As I have hopes that 280 men of your County may arm themselves, and I do not think it proper that a greater number should be sent from thence, you will be pleased to order that number of the most effective men to proceed to Watkins' Mills at which place they shall receive further orders, as soon as further intelligence shall enable me to point them properly.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR MARTIN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 123.*)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Martin

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19. 1781.

Sir,

In our present circumstances peace with the Cherokees is desirable to us on our own accounts as it always was on theirs; you will therefore take such measures to effect this as you think best. Should you find it most likely to preserve peace, we should approve of your removing such of the nation as you can draw off to the Island or any where else within their own unceded territory: Those who are with you, maintain as well as you can; for aid herein apply to the Deput<sup>ys</sup> Commissaries of Washington & Montgomery Counties. Treat the prisoners well, exchange them for any of our people taken by the Cherokees as far as necessary, and when peace shall be made give up the surplus if any.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 124.*)

Baron Steuben

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19. 1781.

Sir,

The inclosed is an extract of a letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene to me. As the Gentlemen of the army whom he wishes to take command of the Militia who shall join him are now pretty generally collected with you for the purpose of arranging the Line, on which arrangement it is possible some become supernumerary I submit to you whether it would not be agreeable to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene if you could prevail on all the gentlemen who shall become supernumerary & as many of those who though remaining of the Line have not a present command of regulars; to join Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene without delay on the present important occasion & take such commands as he shall assign them. You will be pleased to act in this as you shall think best.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 459.)*

Richmond, February 19th, 1781.

*Sir,*— The prisoners in Albemarle were ordered to be removed immediately, giving them time only to pack their baggage, that it might follow them in Waggon. Those taken at the Cowpens which were at New London on the 14th inst. were likewise ordered Northwardly by the way of Staunton keeping above the Blue Ridge, while the Conventioners pass below it. These orders were issued at the same time with those for embodying the Militia and have been notified to Congress and Genl. Washington.

By a letter from Count Rochambeau to Genl. Washington, a copy of which is transmitted me, it appears that some French Frigates were out a cruising from Newport.— that two 74s and a Frigate were sent out by the British to take them, that a storm came on which drove one of the 74s. ashore on Montuck Point, and obliged the other to put back into Gardners' Bay dismasted, and the Frigate also to put back tho' without injury: and forced the French Frigates back to port, which they reached in safety; that this accident had given the French Fleet a superiority; whereon the Chevalr. de Touche was determined to send a line of Battle Ship, and two Frigates to cruise off the Capes of Chesapeake and break off the communication between New York and Charlestown. This letter is dated Jan. 9th. we are therefore to suppose the French Vessels now here to have come in consequence of the above and to hope they are in no danger.<sup>265</sup>

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. CLARK.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 124.)*Gen<sup>l</sup> ClarkeRich<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1781.*Sir,*

I received your letter on the subject of the backwardness of the Militia of Berkely & Frederic to proceed Westwardly and had before received representation from the Counties. This circumstance was the more mortifying as we were informed from various quarters that should we persist in the order it would produce an open disobedience. Many circumstances concurred to render it prudent to avoid this. The presence of two armies of the enemy within the State induced us to wish to prevent everything like commotion or opposition to Government in every part of it. As therefore the representations were accompanied with hopes held out of raising a respectable number of Volunteers, the Board thought it prudent to accept of that offer. These two Counties were relied on for 560 men; on view of this

<sup>265</sup>This letter is not in the letter book, though one other from Jefferson to Steuben of the same date is.

The Chevalier Des Touches (called by Jefferson in this letter "de Touche") was at that time in command of the French fleet making Newport its base. De Tilly was in command of the squadron sent by Des Touches to Virginia waters.



disappointment we obtained an order from Baron Steuben for Colo John Gibson with his regiment & Heth's company (about 200 regulars) to be added to your command: an addition of more worth of itself perhaps than those militia, more especially if any number of Volunteers should go. I hope too you will receive greater numbers from Kentucky than we counted on, & aids from the French Settlements: we are apt to hope what we much wish, and perhaps this is my case.

The inclosed papers<sup>265a</sup> give us real concern as they hold out reason to apprehend great abuses in the Western quarter. I transmit them to you to have strict enquiry made (not by yourself for your time is otherwise better engaged) but by such persons of known integrity & character as you shall appoint. We do not know what to do with the bills of which Maj<sup>r</sup> Slaughter speaks, indeed I wish such an enquiry could take place, and that the persons you appoint would give their sanction to every bill. The suggestions against the Gentle<sup>n</sup> who went to Kaskaskie under promise of availing you of it's resources & strength, are of such a nature as to merit attention & delicate enquiry. I am sure you will keep your attention alive as to every thing of this kind, and will use decision where decision is found necessary.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 125.)

Baron Steuben

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feby. 20th 1781.

Sir,—

I inclose you a report from M<sup>r</sup> Ross of the cloathing provided, and his prospect of further provision. The procuring hats or leathern caps still appears desperate, so that unless some substitute can be thought of, I know not what will be done. There are no hats I am told among the cloathing come from the Northward.

I wrote you that after having called certain numbers from Washington, Montgomery, Botetourt, Henry & Pittsylvania, I had called out all the Militia who could be armed of the Counties of Cumberland, Powhatan, Chesterfl<sup>d</sup>, Dinwiddie, Amelia, Lunenburg & Brunswick to oppose Lord Cornwallis. Prince Edward was not called on because we knew them to have actually marched. Mecklenburg, Charlotte & Halifax were so near the Enemy that we knew they must be in the field before any orders could reach them. So far the draught had been no more disturbed than it had been before by Arnold's invasion except as to the five Counties of Washington &c, first named—it is not in our power to anticipate the time of draughting in the other Counties as you propose. The law gives certain times for raising men voluntarily till the expiration of which no draught can take place;

<sup>265a</sup>One of the papers enclosed was copy of a letter from Col. George Slaughter, written at Louisville, January 14, 1781, to Jefferson. The letter is printed in James "George Rogers Clark Papers, 1771-1781," p. 493 (also in Alvord, "Kaskaskia Records," p. 215). The "gentleman who went to Kaskaskia" was the very unreliable Captain John Dodge.

for this reason we have wished to avoid as much as possible calling on the Counties North of James river, where the draught is as yet undisturbed, untill we shall hear that L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis has actually crossed the Dan, because that act will decide that he means to penetrate this Country. Nevertheless if you think it advisable we will order Militia to a certain extent to be embodied on the North side of James river; and I shall be obliged to you for your opinion on this head.

I find by the inclosed papers which have passed between a Lieut Hare calling himself a flag & Cap<sup>t</sup> Turberville that a Vessel of the Enemy has come under very suspicious circumstances to Sandy Point. What was her errand, to whom addressed, or whether she had passports from any of the Commanding Officers at the Posts in the neighbourhood of the Enemy, are circumstances on which these papers give me no information; yet they appear material in fixing the real character of this vessel. It seems improper that under pretence of being flags their vessels should be allowed to penetrate our rivers to their sources. This matter being within your line; and depending on usages with which you are better acquainted than we are, I wish to remit it altogether to yourself, to have done what is right. A communication of what you determine will oblige me, as I am to write to Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson on the subject.

I also transmit you an extract of the Gen<sup>l</sup>'s L<sup>tr</sup>e on the subject of the French ships here. I should think with him their cruising off the Capes attended with safety to them, and great service to the American Cause by intercepting the communication between N. York and Charles Town. But whether at this crisis till L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis's movements are decided the one way or the other, it be not of very great moment to retain Arnold in his present quarters by the presence of a force sufficient to destroy his navy if he withdraws from it. I would submit to your better judgment.— on this too I will ask your opinion as Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson expects my answer.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES WOOD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 127.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Wood

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 21, 1781.

Sir,

We consent to the dividing the Germans between Winchester, Martinsburg & the Berkely Springs till further orders as proposed by you. I must get the favor of you to know from Col<sup>o</sup> Mingen what sum of money by the fortnight they will have occasion for, and it shall be sent either to the Barracks in Albemarle to any Agent whom they shall leave there to settle their affairs or to their new Quarters, (in fact the meeting of the Assembly on Thursday se'nnight is relied on to furnish us with money of which we have not at present one shilling). I will send to Baron Steuben the petition from the 9. Germans: in the mean time you will do well to leave them as you propose under guard at the Barracks. We think our powers do not extend

to the enlisting the men of the regiment of guards on the terms mentioned in your letter. M<sup>r</sup> Browne informs me he sent 93,000 pounds to M<sup>r</sup> Jo<sup>s</sup> Hawkins three days ago, and will send the like sum by the bearer.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. WILLIAM YATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 128.*)

M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Yates

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 21. 1781.

Sir,

It is become necessary that we ascertain the number of arms which we sent into Continental service with our Regiments. As the only authentic information must come from you, I must beg the favor of you to make a return to me of the number of Arms sent on in the hands of regiments while you were Muster Master. I must pray also that this be without delay.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE MUTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 128.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Muter.

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 21, 1781.

Sir,

I take the liberty of transmitting to you the inclosed advice of Council that proper measures may be taken for notifying it for ascertaining what officers remain on duty & calling them to take command at the several posts where men are stationed. I should be glad also that there should be an inspection return made to me of the State of the men.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN CHRISTIAN SENF.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 128.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Senf

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 21, 1781.

Sir,

I do myself the pleasure of inclosing you the advice of Council for your appointment as finally settled.<sup>266</sup> The Law which authorizes them to appoint an Engineer, restrains the rank to that of a Lieu<sup>t</sup> Cononel, and restrains also the circumstance of actual command. The resolution of Council is silent as to your continuance in office after the war, because they are apprised of nothing which might induce an idea of the Office being discontinued at the period, at which in their expectation it will become most useful, as we shall then become most able to fortify the several posts requisite for defence. Your acceptance of this appointment will give me very real pleasure, and as soon as notified a Commission shall be made out.

<sup>266</sup>See latter part of Note 262.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. NELSON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 129.)*Gen<sup>l</sup> NelsonRichm<sup>d</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 21, 1781.*Dear General*

I received your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> the night before last and deferred answering it till I could confer with Baron Steuben which I had an opportunity of doing yesterday evening. He shewed me a letter from Mons<sup>r</sup> Tilly from which, & the information of his aid who went down, we suppose the French squadron sailed on a cruise yesterday morning. They will however be within our call, & therefore we think it proper to go on with the preparations for enabling us to make an attempt on the enemy, and for affording an asylum to any of the ships of our Ally which may at any time come to us. I put into his hands the papers relative to M<sup>r</sup> Hair & he will give orders on the subject; he seems to consider him as no flag, but a prisoner. As to Mr. Hair's calumnies on individuals of this State among whom I am one; I consider them as honorable testimonials; it is their known practice to bribe whom they can, and whom they cannot to calumniate. They have found one scoundrel in America, and either judging from that or their own principles they would pretend to beleive all are so. If pride of character be of worth at any time, it is when it disarms the efforts of malice. What a miserable refuge is individual slander to so glorious a Nation as Great Britain has been.

I spoke to Baron Steuben some time ago for a return of the numbers of militia from each County which have been on duty & how long. As militia duty becomes heavy it becomes also our duty to divide it equally. I have waited for this to order out reliefs, which cannot be done on sure grounds without it. You will oblige me by having such a return made from your quarter as soon as possible. I am sincerely sorry to hear of your indisposition.

P. S. Is Cap<sup>t</sup> Kelly necessarily employed with you? If he can be spared we are desirous of employing him particularly in another effort to bring the Cannon from South Quay. The 24 lb<sup>s</sup> are wanting immediately to be mounted at Hood's. If he can proceed on this, he must come here.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 130.)*

Baron Steuben—

Richmond Feb<sup>y</sup> 21. 1781.*Sir,*

I received from M<sup>r</sup> Armistead yesterday afternoon a copy of the receipt for the 117 blankets. He excuses himself for the error in calling them 155 from having spoken by memory. I did not observe till I delivered it to you that the certificate of the delivery of M<sup>r</sup> Ross's blankets (105 I think there were) wanted a date, I know however that they were delivered about the same time with those from M<sup>r</sup>



Armistead. There will still remain 90 unaccounted for which will be worth inquiring.

The inclosed letter from the Continental director of the hospital at Fredericksburg being proper to be transmitted to whatever person has succeeded Dr Rickman either in his office generally or in the custody of the Continental medicines & being uninformed who that person is, I take the liberty of submitting it to your order.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 131.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Davies

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 21, 1781.

Sir,

The want of a board of Council prevented our taking up the final arrangement of the Clothier's duties till yesterday, the paper I sent you having contained only what was proposed to be agreed on. Unfortunately no copy of it was retained, so that I am obliged to ask the favor of you to return it if you still have it.

We have here a large number of undressed deer-skins, and no person who can dress them: if you have anybody who can do it, we shall very gladly send them to you, Leather breeches being much wanted for the Cavalry.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE ELLIOTT.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 131.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> George Elliott<sup>e-267</sup>

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 21, 1781.

Sir,

The establishment of a Line of riders between Gen<sup>l</sup> Gregory's Camp & Suffolk is very necessary. I would advise you to purchase horses for that purpose at any rate almost, rather than to impress, but if you cannot purchase they should be impressed. I think it would be better, whether you purchase or impress that it be done in the neighbourhood of the enemy as much as possible, because horses are cheapest there and they are in danger of being taken by the Enemy & used against us.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 132.*)

Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 22, 1781.

Dear General

We sent expresses on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant to call down a fourth part of the Militia of the Counties of Loudon, Fauquier, Prince William & Fairfax (about 1090) with orders to march immediately to W<sup>ms</sup>burg.

<sup>267</sup>Colonel George Elliott was State deputy quartermaster general.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon followed these orders to hasten their execution. These Counties are indeed distant, but they had been some time held in readiness so that I hope they will afford an early & very substantial reinforcement. The moment however that I receive from you a return of the numbers who have served with you from the several Counties as desired in my letter of yesterday: it will be in my power to order reinforcements from Counties more convenient without doing injustice. Your application to Commodore Tilly for arms meets our approbation. I inclose you an extract of a lre. from our delegates in Congress. Should Arnold not be recalled by positive orders, he may possibly come up Appomattox either to attempt a junction with L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis or to divert our reinforcements to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene, & place him between two fires. L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis had not crossed the Dan on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Our accounts of the Militia turning out to reinforce Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene are flattering. They seem in every place to have anticipated our orders.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. FREDERICK VICTOR.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 133.*)

Mr Frederick Victor

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 22d. 1781.

*Sir,*

I have laid the inclosed depositions before the Council. However just & proper your anxiety may be to wipe away the aspersions thrown on you, yet it seems a matter on which the Executive cannot take up on these papers; nor could with propriety take up at all where no complaint has been lodged. Perhaps the proceedings of courts of enquiry may come properly before them: but there does not appear to have been a court of enquiry in the present instance, nor can such a Court be held but on the conduct of an officer. The Board is not informed whether you be an officer or not— if not the supposed offences only cognizable in a civil court. I take the liberty therefore of remitting the papers into your hands.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BROWN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 133.*)

Mr J. Browne

Richmond Feb<sup>ry</sup> 22. 1781.

*Sir,*

New London, Staunton, Winchester, & Fredericksburg being appointed as places of rendezvous for the new Levies, if you have not Deputies already at those Posts, or in the Counties, you will be pleased to appoint them with instructions to furnish the recruits with Provisions during their stay at the Rendezvous, and on their march from it. The Bearers hereof are going to Winchester to receive the recruits, and will carry your appointment for that Post if you have not before made it.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES INNES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 134.)*Col<sup>o</sup> InnesIn Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 22. 1781.

Sir,—

I had written the inclosed<sup>268</sup> before Cap<sup>t</sup> Richeson arrived. I transmit it open through you for your perusal. I am very sorry that the men first called into the field have not been releived: but it has proceeded from the want of such a return as is mentioned in my letter and for which I applied some time ago to Baron Steuben, who has had hopes of furnishing it. You will readily be sensible that where any County shall have sent but half the quota called for, they have performed but half their Tour & ought to be called on again: Where any County has furnished their full complement, they have performed their full Tour & it would be unjust to call on them again 'till we shall have gone through the Counties. Militia duty becoming burthen-some it is our duty to divide it as equally as we can. Upon the receipt of such a return a releif shall be ordered: and in the mean time the arrival of the Militia mentioned in the inclosed may enable you to permit those who have been longer on duty to return home.

On the present invasion the favour was asked of Baron Steuben to arrange the commands on principles laid down by the Executive, being the same determined on Leslie's invasion. We have awaited the receipt of his arrangement to issue Commissions; this alone is the reason why not a single commission has issued during the Invasion.

I will take care to remind the Baron of the want of his report & in the mean time should any gentleman have the misfortune to be captured not a moment shall be lost in sending him a Commission. The affair of Westover has been communicated to me so imperfectly that I am still ignorant of it. I know that a flag is detained at Sandy Point, and have heard of letters between the Conductor & a person in his connection up the River: But their import I have never heard. I understand that I am particularly indebted to M<sup>r</sup> Hair for his eulogiums. Indeed I think them the best certificate of my whiggism did my Country want such a certificate at this day.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 135.)*

Baron Steuben—

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 22. 1781.

Sir,

Whether restitution of the identical property taken from M<sup>rs</sup> Byrd might be permitted seems to be a question unnecessary now to be determined by the Board as M<sup>r</sup> Hair the conductor of the flag

<sup>268</sup>The enclosure referred to was evidently the letter of the same date to General Nelson on the subject of the service of the militia—printed *ante*. Col. Innes's letter, to which the above is a reply, is printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 532. It gives a gloomy view of conditions.

does not pretend to have brought the indentical property but goods in compensation of it, and to what amount we are uninformed. This kind of compensation we think can by no means be permitted; let the instances be multiplied and a very small metamorphosis in the nature of the transaction, degenerates it into commerce. This is the Opinion of the Board independant of the influence which would have been produced on it by the intercourse supposed in the inclosed letters, from Col<sup>o</sup> Nicholas. What will be the result of the investigation set on foot we know not. You will be pleased to give orders which may be rendered necessary by this new matter.

P. S. I am daily pressed to order releifs to the Militia below which I am unable to do till I receive the returns of the numbers which the several Counties have already had and kept in the field.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES  
IN CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 136.*)

Virginia Delegates in Congress—

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 22, 1781.

Gentlemen,

The object of the inclosed memorial of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Stodder, Kerr & North<sup>269</sup> being attainable by Congress only and proper to be the subject of a representation from them, I take the liberty of transmitting it to you, that justice may be done to the parties interested.

P. S. We are and have long been without letters of Marque.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 138.*)

Baron Steuben

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 24, 1781.

Sir,—

I have received repeated information that the nakedness of the Militia on service near W<sup>m</sup>sburg and want of Shoes is such as to have produced murmurings almost amounting to Mutinies and that there is no hope of being able longer to keep them in service. The precedent of an actual mutiny would be so mischeivous as to induce us to believe an accommodation to their present temper most prudent, and therefore to send to Col<sup>o</sup> Innis a letter of which the inclosed is a copy, in the mean time it is out of my power to order releifs on any fixed rule without such a return as mentioned in the letter. As soon as I shall receive such a return new calls shall be made to replace the numbers you wished to have on the North side of James River independently of those from the Northern Counties who were meant to be free for other service. I must therefore trouble you to exercise your authority in such manner as to produce me returns of the kind desired. This

<sup>269</sup>The memorialists, citizens of Virginia, complain that a commercial vessel owned by them had been captured by the British in the Dutch neutral harbor of St. Martin.



is the more necessary to be done speedily lest the same spirit should begin to show itself in Genl Mulenburg's Camp. You will judge from the temper of these Militia how little prospect there is of your availing yourself of their aid on the South side of the River should you require it.

I enclose you the copy of a letter from Col<sup>o</sup> Bannister County Lieu<sup>t</sup> of Dinwiddie. I have taken the liberty of referring him to you as to the arms, and the bearer who carries my letter, will also carry any orders you please to give as to them. The size of his detachment it seems will depend on the arms he can procure.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. BANISTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 137.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Bannister

Dear Sir,

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 24, 1781

The Arms you mention being Continental, they are subject to the orders of Baron Steuben. I have therefore sent him a copy of your letter and begged him to send you by this conveyance such orders as he thinks proper. As he is anxious that the reinforcement should be respectable I make no doubt he will order the arms.

My letters mentioning that the detachments should go under proper officers were meant to direct such officers of the Militia as the invasion law has prescribed in proportion to the numbers sent.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CERTAIN COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 138.*)

Cou<sup>t</sup> Lieu<sup>ts</sup> James City, York, Warwick, Eliz<sup>th</sup> City & City of W<sup>m</sup>sburg.—

Sir,

Be pleased to order to on receipt of this of the Militia of your County to remain on duty only till releifs ordered from counties less exposed shall arrive. I hope this call will be thought less heavy on your county as we avoid calling on it to perform a full tour of duty, and only wish them to serve during those short intervals between the necessary discharge of some of the militia and arrival of releifs. <sup>269a</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. INNES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 138.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Innes—

Sir,

Richmo<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 24. 1781.

Having not yet received a General return of the men in service from the respective counties, and time they have served, which might

<sup>269a</sup>This was, of course, a form letter. It is undated in the letter book, but comes in between letters dated the 24th of February, 1781. The blanks were filled in in the actual letters sent—the first with the name of the place to which the detachment of militia was sent and the second with the number of men in the detachment.

enable me to order releifs from those counties from which they ought to come, I must refer to your discretion to govern yourself by actual circumstances and if you find a discharge of any of the militia with you necessary that you call from the counties of York & James City and those below them a sufficient number to replace them, and to remain on duty untill I shall be enabled to order a releif, or until the arrival of the militia from the Northern Counties ordered a week ago, on which event those you call in, and any others now in service may be discharged. The call on the Counties near W<sup>m</sup>sburg will I hope be thought less oppressive as we have not at any time required them to preform full tours of duty, but only to make first opposition until a force can be collected from Counties less exposed and to fill up those chasms between the discharge of some & arrivals of others which happen at times.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. ROBERT LAWSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 139.*)

Genl. Lawson

Richm<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 25- 1781.

Sir,-

I yesterday received information from Colo Bannister that there were 400 stand of good Continental arms at Petersburg of which he desired 150. I wrote to Baron Steuben on that, and shall immediately write to him again to let him know your want, & I have no doubt but he will order on the balance for your Militia: besides these, 600 stand passed by this place three days ago for Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene's camp. I never heard a tittle of the movements of either Army in the South since a letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene of the 15th. before that I had on the information which your express brought me ordered out all the Militia of Cumberland, Powhatan, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Amelia, Lunenburg & Mecklenburg who could be armed & a fourth part of Washington, Montgomery, Botetourt, Henry & Pittsylvania. I sent no order to Prince Edward because I had your information that the business was already done: to Bedford we dispatched Col<sup>o</sup> Lynch who happened to be here to carry all who could be armed. Halifax & Charlotte were known to be so immediately under the approach of the enemy as that they must be out under the general directions of the invasion Law before orders could get there. We determined not to embody on the North side of the James River till we should learn that L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis had crossed the Dan, because we still wished to interrupt as little as possible the execution of the law for raising regulars. That our intelligence might be perfect we got the favor of Maj<sup>r</sup> McGill to go to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene's camp & apprise us of every interesting movement through the line of stationed expresses. He has been gone a week & we have not yet heard from [him] which makes me apprehend some foul play on the road. I am the more led to this fear by a letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene to Baron Steuben having been opened in the same course of conveyance & the State of Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene's force withdrawn from it.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Mulenburg has drawn close down on the Enemy's lines at Portsmouth— the French 64 gun ship lies in Lynhaven bay, & the two frigates are on the cruize. We are strengthening ourselves in that quarter.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 140.*)

President of Congress & Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington.

Sir

Rich<sup>d</sup>, Feb<sup>ry</sup> 26, 1781.

I gave you information in my last letter that Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene had crossed the Dan at Boyd's Ferry and that L<sup>d</sup> Cornwallis had arrived at the opposite Shore: Large reinforcements of Militia having embodied both in the front & rear of the enemy he is retreating with as much rapidity as he advanced. His route is towards Hillsborough. Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene crossed the Dan the 21<sup>st</sup> in pursuit of him. I have the pleasure to inform you that the spirit of opposition was as universal and ardent as could have been wished. there was no restraint on the numbers which embodied but the want of arms.

The British at Portsmouth lie close in their lines— the French squadron keep them in by water; and since their arrival, as they put it out of the power of the Enemy to cut off our retreat by sending up Nansemond river our force has been moved down close to their lines.<sup>270</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CLAIBORNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 141.*)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Claiborne—

Sir,

[Feb. 26, 1781.]

The matter referred to us in your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst. we conceive to be improper for us to meddle in, I mean as to the necessity, and duties of a Field Quarter Master. The expences of defence in cases of actual invasion being altogether Continental, I mentioned early in the present invasion to Baron Steuben the propriety of directing every expenditure to be through the hands of continental officers, who might see that those expenditures were made according to the continental rules. He made the present arrangement, I believe, and I can therefore only beg leave to refer you to him for any alterations you may think proper to propose.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES INNES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 142.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Innes.

Sir,

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 27, 1781.

I will notify to the Baron the necessity for the attendance of Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson & your self<sup>271</sup> on the Legislature that he may take order

<sup>270</sup>The same letter was sent to General Washington.

<sup>271</sup>General Nelson and Colonel Innes were both members of the General Assembly, the one representing York County and the other James City County.

in it. In the mean time I should hope the commands may be safely devolved on those next in rank.

I hope my last letter to you has made effectual provision against the disaffection of Militia.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR JOHN FITZGERALD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 142.*)

Maj<sup>r</sup> Fitzgerald—<sup>272</sup>

Sir,

In Council Feb<sup>ry</sup> 27. 1781.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Amable & Alex. Sory of Alexandria advertised a Copy of the Encyclopedie for sale. I wrote to enquire as to the condition & price of the work, and received for an answer of which the inclosed is a Copy. I take the liberty, under sanction of the readiness you have ever shewn to aid us, of inclosing to you the notes of 15068 lb<sup>s</sup> of Tob<sup>o</sup> and of asking the favor of you to make the purchase for us. As the Tob<sup>o</sup> is some of it old, it is just that we should make good the weights, which you will be pleased to undertake shall be done.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN SYME.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 143.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Syme<sup>273</sup>

Sir,

Richmond February 27<sup>th</sup> 1781

We shall be glad if you will take the Trouble of having those Arms repaired and give us notice when done that they may be sent for,

As I suppose you will send your new Levies to Chesterfield Court House that being the most convenient Rendezvous for your County I am to inform you that they may be received at that Place at any time all together or in detail. The Assembly will no doubt cure the defect of time in the execution of the late acts, so that those who refuse to pay will only shew their principles without saving their money. The last intelligence from the South is that Cornwallis was retreating towards Hillsborough as precipetately as he had advanced, and that General Greene had crossed the Dan in Pursuit of him.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT  
OF GOOCHLAND.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 143.*)

County Lieutenant of Goochland.

Sir,

In Council February 28<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Be pleased immediately on Receipt of this to order to this place 40 of your Militia under a Captain, Lieutenant & Ensign to receive and escort to Winchester between one and two hundred Prisoners.

<sup>272</sup>Major John Fitzgerald had seen active service and was wounded at Monmouth. Shortly after, he retired. At this time he was living in Alexandria. A letter preserved in the Virginia State Library shows that he executed the commission assigned him. This set of the famous *Encyclopédie* was purchased for the public (see Council Journal for Feb. 27, 1781)—that is, for the library of the Council. Its purchase at this time of anxiety shows the strength of Jefferson's devotion to letters. The set of books (37 large volumes) is still in the Virginia State Library.

<sup>273</sup>This was Colonel John Syme, county lieutenant of Cumberland County.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN JAMES MAXWELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 143.*)

Captain Maxwell

In Council February 28<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am to ask the Favor of you to proceed immediately to Hampton to procure a number of the best and most trusty river & Bay Pilots. if you cannot otherwise get them you must force them into the Service. Immediately on your arrival at Hampton wait on the Commanding Officer of his most Christian Majesty's Fleet to know the Number of Pilots wanting, and to receive and forward by express to me any Communications he may think necessary: The Pilots when procured you will be pleased to deliver to him. I have reason to believe that this Squadron had on board some stores and small arms for this State. You will be pleased to receive them and have them forwarded to this Place, through either York or James River as shall be safest. I should be glad that you would take measures for rendering the armed vessels of this State subservient to the general Service, and particularly to the performing necessary offices for the French fleet. The Jefferson might be very useful in preventing the escape of small vessels from Elizabeth river.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE FRENCH NAVAL COMMANDER

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 144.*)

To the Officer commanding the Naval Force of his Most Christian Majesty on the Coast of Virginia.<sup>273a</sup>

Richmond February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to you the inclosed Letter which accompanied others from General Washington & the Marquis Fayette to the honourable Major General Baron Steuben & myself. That there may be no Disappointment in procuring the pilots required, I got the favor of Captain Maxwell Naval Commander to this State to proceed to Hampton to provide them. His Knowledge of the Service and of the properest Persons to be employed will I hope ensure our getting them. You will be pleased to advise him as to the number necessary. The Communication between yourself and the Commanding Officer on Shore I suppose to be at present safe and easy. If you can point out anything which it is in my Power to have done to render it more so, I shall with great Pleasure have it done. General Washington mentions that you had been so kind as to take on board some arms and cloathing on account of this State. Captain Maxwell is instructed to take measures for receiving them. I shall be happy to have it in my power to contribute by any orders I can give towards supplying your troops with provisions or any other necessities which

<sup>273a</sup>Le Gardeur de Tilly, captain of *L'Eveill *, and in command of the squadron. This letter as printed by Ford (II, 469) is dated Feb. 25.

may promote their Health or accomodation and in every instance to testify our gratitude to your nation in general and yourself personally for the aid you have brought us on the present Emergency.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 145.*)

Baron Steuben

Sir,

In Council February 28<sup>th</sup> 1781.

I have the pleasure of forwarding you by express the inclosed Dispatches. I send off immediately proper orders for providing the Pilots to be furnished the commanding officer of the French Squadron who is to forward them up the Bay. General Washington says he writes to you on the Subject of Militia, Magazines &c. I shall be glad to receive any advices on those Heads which may require my assistance.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. GRANVILLE SMITH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 145.*)

Mr Granville Smith <sup>274</sup>

Sir,

In Council February 28<sup>th</sup> 1781.

The late Lt Colo. Porterfield your Principal contracted a Debt of thirty Guineas during his illness in South Carolina which his brother Robert Porterfield has desired us to enable him to pay. You will therefore be pleased to purchase a heavy Hogshead of Tobacco and be ready to consign it on board a Flag (which will go to Charlestown with Tobacco) to Robert Porterfield. The Purchase Money of the Tobacco you will pay out of the contingent money in your Hands and consider it as advanced to Lt. Colo. Porterfield as Quarter Master.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(*From Virginia State Archives, Executive Papers.*)

In Council Feb. 28. 1781.

The prisoners spoken of are Continental and should be fed by the Continental issuing commissary on being furnished with a list of them I will order him to supply them.

I shall write to Maj<sup>r</sup> Claiborne on the propositions made by Mr Elliott to withdraw Patton from our service. In the mean time Patton may be told that if the lot falls on him on the draught we will detain him, and that neither Elliot nor any other power short of that of the legislature can exempt his property from taxation, or his person any otherwise from military service. <sup>275</sup>

<sup>274</sup> Granville Smith had served as captain in Grayson's Continental Regiment, resigning the 15th of July 1778. He was now in the State quartermaster department. Lieutenant-Colonel Porterfield, mortally wounded at Camden, was the State's quartermaster general.

<sup>275</sup> This letter is written on back of one sent by Col. Muter to the governor asking for information. As given in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 546, the first paragraph is omitted.

On the same page of the Calendar is printed the following short note from Jefferson to Col. Muter, written on back of letter from Muter to Jefferson: "This canvas must not be diverted to any other use. Mr. Armistead should look out for some other."

GOV. JEFFERSON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 146-151.*)

In Council March 1. 1781.

Sir,

It is with great reluctance that after so long & laborious a session as the last I have been again obliged to give you the trouble of convening in general assembly within so short a time and in so inclement a Season. But such was the Situation of Public Affairs as to render it indispensable.

The six millions of Pounds ordered to be emitted at the last Session of Assembly, the four millions which the Executive were permitted to issue if necessary, and the money for the purchase of 1500 Hogsheads of Tobacco estimated to be one million, one hundred & twenty five thousand Pounds have been all dispensed in Paiment of Public Debts, in present Defence, and Preparation for the ensuing Campaign, as fast as they could be emitted: and the calls uncomplied with appear to be numerous & distressing. One army of our enemies lodged within our Country, another pointing towards it, and since in fact entered into it, without a shilling in the Public Coffers, was a situation in which it was impossible to rest the safety of the State.

The invasion which took place on the Close of the last Session of Assembly having necessarily called for the attendance of a number of Militia in the Field, interrupted of Course the execution of the act for recruiting our quota of Troops for the Continental Army. Sensible that this would be the Consequence, we endeavoured to restrain the Calls of Militia to as few Counties as possible, that the residue might proceed undisturbed in this important work; but such has been the Course of events as to render indispensable subsequent applications to many other Counties, so that in some Counties while this law is in a regular Train of execution, in others it is begun and proceeding under great Obstacles and Doubts, and in others it has been wholly suspended: this last a measure the Executive themselves were obliged to recommend or approve in some instances from a Conviction that they could not otherwise draw forth the force of the Counties in the particular point in which that Force was wanting. Accidents derived from the same movements of the enemy delayed the Promulgation of the act for supplying the army with Cloths, Provisions and waggons until it became evident that the times of execution would be elapsed before the Laws could be received in many Counties. I undertook notwithstanding to recommend their execution at as early a day as possible, not doubting but that the General Assembly, influenced by the necessity which induced them to pass the act would give their sanction to a literal Departure from it, where it's Substance was complied with. I have reason to believe that the zeal of the several counties has led them to a Compliance with my Recommendation, and I am therefore to pray a legal ratification of their proceedings, the want of which might expose the instruments of the Laws to evil and vexation from some individuals.

These were the subjects which led immediately to the calling of the General Assembly; others tho' of less moment it is my Duty also [to] lay before you being now convened.

As the establishment of your regular army will of Course be under Consideration while amending the late Law for raising Regulars, I beg leave to lay before you a letter of the honble Major General Baron Steuben on that Subject, and the Proceedings of a Convention of Commissioners from the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut & New York held at Hartford, as likewise a Proposition from Colonel Spotswood for raising a legionary Corps for the Defence of the State. Whether it be practicable to raise and maintain a sufficient number of regulars to carry on the war is a Question: that it would be burthensome is undoubted. Yet it is perhaps as certain that no possible mode of carrying it on can be so expensive to the public and so distressing & disgusting to Individuals as by Militia. The Approach of the British Army under Ld. Cornwallis having rendered Supplies of Horses for the Purpose of mounting our dragoons indispensably necessary for the reasons set forth in the inclosed extract of a Letter from General Greene, and it being apparent that horses in the route of their march if not used for us would be taken by them and used in subduing us, I undertook to recommend to General Greene the applying to the use of his Dragoons horses so exposed, first ascertaining their value by appraisement and beg leave to rest the ratification of the measure on the appearance of things at that moment and the sense of the General Assembly of it's necessity. could any further means be devised for completing those Corps of Horse it might have the most important Effects on the Southern Operations.

I am desired to lay before the General Assembly the resolutions of Congress of February 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 1781 which accompany this, as also the representations of our officers in Captivity in Charles town in favor of General McIntosh. I likewise beg leave to transmit you the Advice of Council for reforming the 1st & 2d State regiments, the State Garrison regiment of Artillery in pursuance of the resolution of Assembly which it recites.

Mr Everard having declined resuming the office of Auditor to which the General Assembly had elected him, the Executive have appointed Bolling Starke Esqr in his room to serve till the meeting of Assembly. Not doubting but that the General Assembly would wish to be informed of the measures taken by the Executive on the Invasion which happened at the rising of the last Session of Assembly; as well as on the one lately made on our Southern Frontier I shall take the Liberty of giving them a succinct State of them.

Having received information on Sunday the last day of December of the appearance of 27 Sail of vessels in our Bay, which whether friendly or hostile was not then known, we got the Favor of General Nelson to repair immediately to the lower Country with Instructions to call into the Field such a force from the adjacent Counties as might make present opposition to the enemy if it proved to be an Enemy according to an arrangement which had been settled in the preceeding Summer; waiting for more certain & precise information before we



should call on the more distant part of the Country, I in the same instant stationed Expresses from hence to Hampton.

I took the liberty of communicating this intelligence to the General Assembly on their meeting the next morning. No further Information arrived till the 2d of January when we were assured that the fleet announced was hostile. We immediately advised with Major General Baron Steuben the commanding officer in the state on the force he would wish to have collected, and in the Course of the Day prepared Letters calling together one fourth of the Militia from the Counties whose term it was to come into Service or whom vicinity rendered it expedient to call on viz: Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Amelia, Powhatan, Cumberland, Pr. Edward, Charlotte, Halifax, Bedford, Buckingham Henrico, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Sussex, Southampton, Goochld, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Amherst, Rockbridge, Augusta, Rockingham & Shanandoah amounting to 4650 Men and directing them not to wait to be embodied in their Counties but to come in detached Parties as they could be collected. I at the same time required the Counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Chesterfield, Powhatan, Cumberland, Dinwiddie & Amelia to send the half of their Militia intending to discharge what should be over their equal Proportion as soon as those from the more distant Counties should arrive, and in the morning of the 4th. finding the Enemy were coming up James river I called for every man able to bear arms from the Counties of Henrico, Goochland, Powhatan, Chesterfield & Dinwiddie. Nevertheless so rapid were the movements of the Enemy and so favorable to them the Circumstances of wind & Tide that they were able to penetrate to this Place and Westham on the 5th. to destroy what public Stores we had not been able to get away, to burn the public Buildings at Westham & some occupied by the public at this Place and to retire to their Shipping before such a Force had assembled as was sufficient to approach them. I have the Pleasure however to inform you that we were enabled to withdraw almost the whole of the public Stores so as to render our loss in that article far less than might have been expected from the rapidity of the movements of the enemy and the difficulty of procuring suddenly any considerable number of Waggons and vessels. General Nelson having collected and drawn towards the enemy a Body of Militia on the North, and Baron Steuben done the same on the Southside of the River, the enemy withdrew making descents & committing Depredations at Places till they had reached Portsmouth, where they have since remained environed by the Militia of this State and of North Carolina.

On receiving intelligence of the advance of the British army under Ld. Cornwallis through North Carolina, we directed one fourth of the Militia of Pittsylvania, Henry, Montgomery, Washington, and Botetourt to march immediately to reinforce General Green's Army: but learning very soon after [that the enemy] were already arrived at or very near the Dan river we ordered out all the Militia who had arms or for whom arms could be procured of the Counties of Lunenburg, Brunswick, Amelia, Dinwiddie, Chesterfield, Powhatan and Cumberland. Colonel Lynch who happened to be here when

the Intelligence was received, was instructed to carry on immediately the Militia of Bedford We at the same instant received notice that the militia of Prince Edward & Mecklenburg were already embodied and we knew the Counties of Halifax & Charlotte to be so immediately under the approach of the enemy as that they must be embodied under the invasion Law before our orders could reach them. The Counties below these on the South side of James river we thought it expedient to leave as a Barrier against the Army within Portsmouth. The very rapid Approach of the enemy obliged us in this Instance to disregard that regular rotation of Duty which we wish to observe in our Calls on the several Counties and to summon those into the field which had Militia on duty at the very Time. The several services of these, however, as well as of the other Counties shall be kept in view and made as equal as possible in the Course of general<sup>276</sup> service

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. NATHANIEL BURWELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 151.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Nathaniel Burwell [county lieutenant of James City County].

Sir,

In Council March 1<sup>st</sup> 1781

I shall be obliged to you if you will put the six months men of your County under the Care of some officer coming with discharged Militia by this place. Baron Steuben has furnished Officers to go to each of the places of Rendezvous mentioned in my circular Letter<sup>276a</sup> to receive the Draughts. None but these can receive them, which renders it necessary that yours should be sent to the Rendezvous. Chesterfield Courthouse, I suppose is the one you will send to where an Officer is ready to receive them.

<sup>276</sup>In this letter we at last come upon a communication to the House of Delegates—addressed, however, to the speaker—approaching in fulness one of our modern messages or addresses made at the opening of sessions.

<sup>276a</sup>The following undated circular letter is found in rough draft in the executive papers in the Virginia State Archives, which is possibly the letter here referred to:

Sir

Understanding that there are dispersed through the several counties of the Commonwealth a considerable number of draughts or substitutes heretofore raised [blank for the name] is instructed to attend to receive them at your court house and will give you notice of the day on which he will attend.\* our Eastern garrisons being extremely weak, we are under an absolute necessity of reinforcing them and as I am very anxious to keep every burthen of that kind from our militia, let me entreat you for their quiet as well as for the safeguard of your country to exert yourself in collecting these men and also any others which may have been raised for the Eastern service and in having them punctually delivered at the time he shall appoint.

[Endorsed:] Gov<sup>r</sup> Jefferson to County Lieut<sup>s</sup> relative to dispersed drafts

1781

75 copies to be printed.

\*In the original the following is here crossed out: Petersburg on the first day of August next, at New London on the 6th of the same month, at Staunton on the 12th, at Winchester on the 18th and at Fredericksburg on the 24th.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CERTAIN COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 151.)

Letter to the County Lieutenants of Prince George, Sussex, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Nansemond, Surry, Charles City, New Kent.

In Council Mar 1<sup>st</sup> 1781

Sir,

It being necessary that a reinforcement be sent immediately to General Muhlenburg you will be pleased to order of your Militia to be at his head quarters on the 5<sup>th</sup> or at furthest the 6<sup>th</sup> instant. They will there receive arms. This number must be sent fully.

|                    |     |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Prince George..... | 125 | Isle of Wight..... | 150 |
| Sussex.....        | 175 | Surry.....         | 95  |
| Southampton.....   | 219 | Charles City.....  | 71  |
| Nansemond.....     | 161 | New Kent.....      | 104 |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MRS. WILLIAM BYRD.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 152.)

In Council. March 1<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Madam

I am sorry it is not in my power to send you the Law you desire having only one Copy of it myself and that bound up within the laws of the session of October 1776 at which it was passed. The description of the offence which is the subject of the Act, is in these words— 'if a man do levy war against the Commonwealth within the Same, or be adherent to the enemies of the Commonwealth within the same giving to them aid or comfort in the Commonwealth or elsewhere &c. &c. thereof be legally convicted &c.&c.' The situation in which you were placed by the landing of the enemy at Westover was undoubtedly difficult. Whether you may have been able to steer with Precision between the will of those in whose Power you were & the Laws of your Country is a Question on which the laws have not made me the Judge. The Letter which you mention to have written while the enemy's Fleet lay at Westover, being thought to contain the acknowledgement of an offence against the Commonwealth, was put into the Hands of the Executive officially and by them remitted to the Attorney General with instructions to proceed as the Laws should require. I believe it is his Idea that these proceedings must be as for a misdemeanor. They will probably take place immediately under the Directions of a late act which ordains pleadings in certain cases from Day to Day till final decision and I hope will furnish you an ample occasion of Justification. The Flag having come on a Permission of Baron Steuben given before the Determination to discontinue that kind of intercourse we referred the whole of that matter to him, save only that his promise having been to admit an indential Restitution of Slaves and the flag instead of that bringing a Compensation in Mer-

chandize were of opinion and determined that this could not be admitted to be received, as, allowing the same indulgence equally to all, it would immediately become regular Commerce. This was the only order or resolution formed by the Executive on any Thing relative to this Flag or to yourself so far as connected with her. M<sup>r</sup> Hare was thought to have conducted himself with great Impropropriety, yet a desire to afford no Colour of precedent for violating the sacred Rights of a Flag has I believe induced Baron Steuben to remit Mr. Hare & his vessel again to his Commander.

Tho' my office requires that I should be divested of private estimations yet I must be permitted to assure you that it will give me very real Pleasure to know that the Issue from this troublesome Business is perfectly to your satisfaction.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES INNES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 153.)*

Col<sup>o</sup> Innes

Sir,

In Council March 1<sup>st</sup> 1781

On revising the orders I inclosed you for Militia to supply the Place of yours when discharged, I find I omitted Williamsburg. I now inclose you an order for a fourth of their militia. Baron Steuben informed me to Day of the order he had given you to carry your Men across the River. I have stated to him the little probability of effecting it in their present Temper. It must therefore be rested on your Discretion whether to attempt it or not. I have taken measures on a Supposition that they cannot be carried and have given orders for 300 to proceed (in their Stead) from Southampton Isle of Wight, Nansemond, Surry, Charles City & New Kent.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE MUTER.

*From Virginia State Archives, Board of War Papers.)*

In Council Mar. 1. 1781.

The eight months men being regular souldiers are to be discharged & paid as other regulars.

The Western quarter masters having been discontinued as said, it seems proper that the subsequent furnitures to militia should be settled with the Auditors.<sup>277</sup>

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 153.)*

Marquis Fayette

Sir,

Richmond March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1781.

I was two days ago honoured with your Letter and that of General Washington on the same Subject. I immediately transmitted by

<sup>277</sup>This letter is written at bottom of letter to Jefferson from Col. Muter, asking for information. In it Col. Muter informs Jefferson of the certainty of the death of Col. Porterfield. Abstract of Col. Muter's letter and Jefferson's letter in full are printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," II, 549, 550.



Express the one accompanying it to the Commanding officer of the Naval Force of his Most Christian Majesty in our Bay, and took measures for providing pilots. Baron Steuben will communicate to you the Arrangements he proposes, which I shall have the pleasure of forwarding with every aid in my power. I hope that when you shall arrive at the point of Action every Thing will be found in readiness. I think the prospect flattering of lopping off this Branch of the British Force<sup>278</sup> and of relieving the Southern Operations by pointing all their Efforts to one Object only. The relief of this State being the most immediate effect of the enterprize it gives me great Pleasure that we shall be so far indebted for it to a Nobleman who has already so much endeared himself to the Citizens of these States by his past Exertions and the very effectual aids he has been the means of procuring them.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE MUTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 154.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Muter

In Council March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Board has considered your request that they should make an Enquiry into your Conduct as Commissioner of the War Office. No Complaint having been lodged with them on the Subject, No Prosecutor offering himself, no Witnesses pointed out, nor even Charges specified, they do not know that they can with either propriety or practicability enter on such an enquiry; the more especially as they know no instance themselves in which you may be justly charged with Inattention to the Duties of your Office.

We found on enquiry that the Battery Carriages now on Hand have been from the Beginning directed by a Continental Officer, we wished therefore not to interrupt them, but rather as more are wanting and without Delay to avail ourselves of Captain Roane's Assistance by ordering a separate Set of Hands to go to work immediately under his Direction: by which means we may hope to have mounted in time the full number of Cannon wanted.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES INNES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 155.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Innes

Richmond March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1781

Sir,

After writing the inclosed I had further Conversation with the Baron who desires as your militia are not going over to the South Side of the River that you will have their Arms carried to General Muhlenburgs head Quarters where they will be wanting by the 6th

<sup>278</sup>The plan was to capture the British forces under Arnold at Portsmouth. The strategy was the same as that successfully employed later in the year against Cornwallis at Yorktown.

instant, and that you will have measures taken to bring Arms from Gloucester for the Militia of the adjacent Counties who are called in to take the place of those now under your Command. As the French Squadron will restrain the Enemy within Elizabeth River there will probably be little to do on the North Side of James River. These Arrangements will take a very short Time, & I hope therefore they will not be the means of detaining [you] from the Assembly.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE, SPEAKER OF  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 155.)*

Richard Henry Lee Speaker of the House of Delegates

In Council March 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,—

It is thought that the present Situation of the Enemy in this State affords an opportunity of undertaking Some military operations of Importance. To enable the Commanding Officer to carry them on an additional Force on the Water is necessary. There are in James and Appomattox Rivers vessels of private Property suited and sufficient for the Purpose as is believed. I shall be glad to have the sanction of the General Assembly if they approve of it for impressing such vessels, their Tackle &c. Crews for this particular Purpose and for a short Time only, a measure which I hope would not be disagreeable to the owners if their vessels be ensured with whatever they may have on Board and a reasonable Pay allowed. An immediate Determination would be necessary if the measure be approved.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. EDWARD CARRINGTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 156.)*

Col<sup>o</sup> Edward Carrington

In Council March 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,—

I have received your Letter wherein is this paragraph, 'the sum indeed mentioned in your Excellency's Letter is excessive and I am not surprized it should be so, when I find by a State of your affairs sent to General Greene you have magnified the estimate in one article ten fold and perhaps the same Circumstance attends the estimation on some of the other articles. I estimated for fifty thousand Bushels of grain; in your Excellency's State to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene it is called five hundred thousand. I should be glad the Executive would revise their Estimation, and perhaps after correcting those Errors &c.&c.'

I trust you would have been more choice in your Terms had you revised the estimate yourself as recommended to us. I send you a Copy of it wherein you will find the quantity of Corn or Oats expressed in these Figures and Letters '500,000 Bushels' in a former estimate given in some Days or perhaps Weeks before this. The quantity required was 'for 2326 draft Horses and 779 saddle Horses till the 1<sup>st</sup>

of August was 282,490 Bushels.' I did not therefore magnify the Article to General Greene, and you are now speaking of 50,000 bushels as the Quantity required shews that I had reason to intimate to the Gen<sup>l</sup> the necessity of new Calculations on the true Number of Horses connected with the Southern army and the proportion of this, which on view of actual Circumstances we ought to furnish. I believe the estimate at 50,000 Bushels to be as far wrong as that at 500,000. we shall be governed by neither, but will furnish as much as we shall be able. it will probably be short of the middle Quantity; should you have represented this Article to General Greene to have been magnified by us, I shall expect from your Justice that you will be equally ready to correct as to commit an Error, & that you will take the trouble to inform him that I had not been so deficient in respect either to him or myself as to magnify things of which I undertook to give him representation. Major Claiborne had the half million of Pounds which we promised him of the late Emission. When the Treasury is replenished he shall again have due Proportion to enable him to procure such Part of the Estimate as he thinks proper.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKERS OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 157.*)

To the Speakers of the General Assembly of  
North Carolina.

In Council March 3<sup>d</sup> 1781

*Gentlemen,—*

I had the Honor of receiving your joint Letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> ult. I assure you that we have been so very far from entertaining an Idea of withholding Succours from you on account of the Invasion of our State that it had been determined that the regular Troops raised and not at that Time marched should nevertheless proceed to your assistance, and that we would oppose the Army in our own country with Militia. For the same reasons we still mean that the new Levies now raising and which will be rendezvoused mostly within the present Month, shall be marched on to your Assistance, being convinced that that is the only permanent and effective Aid we can give you. Militia do well for hasty Enterprizes, but cannot be relied on for lengthy Service and out of their own Country.

I am truly sorry that it is not in our Power to furnish you with a single Stand of Arms: those we sent the last year for the use of your State and in the hands of our own Militia made a very considerable Proportion of our whole Stock. Three successive Invasions since have obliged us so often to arm large Bodies of Militia, and on every issue of arms to Militia the Loss is great. We are now unable to do more than arm the Force lying before Portsmouth. The Want of Arms was the only Circumstance which restrained the Numbers lately collected against Lord Cornwallis.

I shall be happy to give you every Proof which shall be in our Power of the Cordiality and Zeal with which to aid you under every

Difficulty. Circumscribed Abilities unhappily render these aids much less than we are disposed to make them to which Circumstance alone I beg you to ascribe whatever we fall short of your actual Wants.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COMMODORE DE TILLY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 158.*)

To the Officer command[ing] the Naval Force of his Most Christian Majesty on the Coast of Virginia.

Richmond March 4th, 1781.

Sir,

On Supposition that the armed vessels of private Property may some of them be usefully employed against the Enemy for two or three Weeks to come I have directed all such as are at all fit for that Purpose in James & Appomattox Rivers to be impressed. As yet I have a report of four only. As it is possible there may be others in these as well as the other rivers of this State and that they may be endeavouring to pass out, I would take the liberty of authorizing you to detain any such which you shall think may be useful against the enemy. The masters may be informed that their Vessels and loading while so detained are ensured by the State, and that a reasonable daily Hire shall be paid them. I trust that your Zeal for the common Cause of the will frame my apology for taking the Liberty of proposing this Trouble to you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 158.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Pickering

Richmond March 4<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am very sorry that the appointment of Deputy Quarter Master in this State has been so managed as to produce Difficulty. You will be pleased to observe that after I wrote to Major Forsythe to know whether he would accept of it, I waited upwards of a Month and received no answer. The business of transportation suffered greatly for want of a head to the several Deputies and much distressed the Southern Army. At the end of that period I received a Letter from Major Forsythe taking no notice of the appointment of Deputy Quarter Master which had been tendered him and showing that he was acting under a new appointment of Deputy Commissary General to the Southern Army or of the Southern Department I forget which. From this it was supposed that he declined undertaking the Office of Deputy Quarter Master and the papers were put into the hands of Baron Steuben and a new appointment made as has been formerly explained to you. At the Time we proposed Major Forsythe as Deputy Quarter Master his former Office of Deputy Commissary of Purchases in this State was become a nullity, because we had undertaken to provide by agents of our own the Specifics required by Con-



gress which were to be delivered to Storekeepers under the direction of the Quarter Master. There was therefore nothing to be done by a Continental Commissary of Purchases within the State. The present appointment however of Major Forsythe as Deputy Commissary General to the Southern Army will require his Attendance on that Army, will occupy his Time fully in procuring Provisions to subsist the army during the Intervals which the irregularities of the Specific Supplies by the several States will necessarily occasion, and therefore seems not to leave it in his Power to perform the Duties of your Deputy in this State. I have the Pleasure however to inform you that Major Forsythe expresses himself perfectly satisfied and does not propose to urge a right to the Appointment. Major Claiborne being at first utterly unknown to me I was afraid to do more in my former Letter to you than to hand to you what was said of him by others. The Duties of his Office giving me daily occasion to judge of him from my own Observation I think he is exceedingly attentive, discreet, with Talents not inferior to the office and upon the whole that he will give you Satisfaction.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MONSIEUR DE MARBOIS.

(*From Bergh, "Writings of Jefferson," IV, 164.*)

Richmond, March 4th, 1781.

Sir,— I have been honored with your letter of Feb. 5th. Mr. Jones did put into my hands a paper containing sundry inquiries into the present state of Virginia, which he informed me was from yourself, and some of which I meant to do myself the honor of answering.

Hitherto it has been in my power to collect a few materials only, which my present occupations disable me from completing. I mean, however, shortly to be in a condition which will leave me quite at leisure to take them up, when it shall be one of my first undertakings to give you as full information as I shall be able to do on such of the subjects as are within the sphere of my acquaintance. On some of them, however, I trust Mr. Jones will engage abler hands. Those in particular which relate to the commerce of the State, a subject with which I am wholly unacquainted, and which is probably the most important in your plan.<sup>279</sup>

<sup>279</sup>In this letter—not copied into the letter book—is seen the inception of Jefferson's famous work "Notes on the State of Virginia," written mainly in the latter part of 1781, after Jefferson's retirement from the position of governor. The book was first printed in 1784, but has been many times reprinted. In 1894 an edition was gotten out edited by Paul Leicester Ford in the preface of which is found a history of the work and a list of the various former editions.

The Monsieur de Marbois at whose request the work was undertaken, was at that time secretary of the French legation in Philadelphia and himself a man of letters. The part played by him in French history was an important one. He died (1837) a peer of France.

The Mr. Jones mentioned in the first sentence of the letter was Mr. Joseph Jones, a Virginia member of the Continental Congress.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES, RICHARD HENRY LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 159.*)

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

In Council March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir,*—

Baron Steuben has sent to this Place a number of the Levies raised under the act of assembly passed at the Session of May 1780, whom he declines retaining as unfit for Service. It was his Desire that it should be made known to the Assembly. I therefore take the Liberty of inclosing to you his Letter. The Discharge of these men will on the one Hand lose the Bounty [to] the public: on the other the retaining them brings on the additional loss of pay Clothing and Subsistence: unless it should be disapproved by the assembly we shall direct them to be immediately discharged.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT  
OF CHANCERY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 160.*)

To the honble. Judges of the High Court of Chancery—

Richmond March 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

The Executive (on the publick account) are under a Difficulty which will be sufficiently explained by the within Paper. You will perceive by that that we propose to refer the Matter to Arbitration in another State: nevertheless we suppose the only question which occasions a Doubt (that is whether if M<sup>r</sup> Nathan took up the Bills *bona Fide* as he alledges, he is entitled to a payment in hard Money at par) must have been frequently decided, and in such Case we should be unwilling to shew such Ignorance of the Law as to require an award on a clear point. I am therefore desired to beg your advice on that Point, assuring you that it shall not come in Question before you judicially; if you shall be of Opinion that we ought to pay at par we shall do it: if you think otherwise it shall be referred as you see by the paper has been agreed on. I am only to trouble you farther for an immediate answer if you will be so good as to oblige us.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GEORGE WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 160.*)

General Weedon,

Richmond March 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

Your Letters of February 20<sup>th</sup> & March 3<sup>d</sup> were received yesterday and this Day. It is utterly out of our Power to send the Arms & Cartouch Boxes to Hanover Courthouse which you desire. Every one fit for Service has been delivered out. You will certainly get

such of your men armed below as shall be without arms, as there are spare arms under the orders of Baron Steuben drawn down to the place to which your militia will proceed. The Ammunition will in like manner be issued there. For God's sake lose not a moment, (indeed I am sure you will not) in getting on. Every instant is critical & may have great effect on operations which perhaps are not yet communicated to you. I sincerely rejoice at the great event you were so kind as to communicate to me.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 161.*)

Baron Steuben

Richmond March 5<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I inclose you extracts from two Letters received from General Weedon. I fear his Arrival will be so late as to disturb your Plans. I have urged him to Expedition and been obliged further to let him know it is not in your power to furnish Arms or Cartouch Boxes. You desired us to collect our powder I trust that if you wish it at any particular Place you will notify it with an Appointment of Time and Place.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. THOMAS SIM LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 161.*)

His Excellency Governor Lee

Richmond March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,—

I had the Honor of receiving yesterday your Excellency's Favour of February 27<sup>th</sup> and had just before received the resolution of Congress of February 20<sup>th</sup> which were the Subject of the Letter.

I think that we ought not to expect any Co-operation in this Business from North Carolina and that we should be disappointed were we to expect it. A State in the midst of which are several different Armies of Foes & of Friends as destructive from necessity as Foes, which has been consumed by their ravages near a twelve-month is not in a Condition to give but to expect assistance. It must be evident that from the Presence of our Armies in that State she must furnish more than her Quota for supplies, because she makes up the Failures of all other States; for on these Failures of supply the army will not go to take from the State failing, but takes it's necessary Subsistence from that in which they are. I think then that of the States named in the resolution of Congress the object of the resolution rest fairly on Delaware Maryland and Virginia, and I shall be very happy to concur with them in such equal measures as will effect the intentions of Congress. I do not apprehend it was intended by your Excellency when you proposed to deposit your Quota of Specifics at Alexandria that the Burthen of Transporting it thence to North Carolina should be left on us solely, because as on the same plan we should be entitled

to deliver our Quota on our Southern Boundary which would bring up our share of Burthen to an equality with yours: Were we moreover to transport your quota and that of Delaware across our Country it would be so much more than equality. I take the Liberty of mentioning this because your Excellency's proposition has been I think misunderstood in this particular. The Desire of Congress is that we should settle an arrangement for procuring supplies for the Southern army in the states most convenient for replacing those supplies from other States and for transporting the whole. All this supposes a joint Concern, I should think therefore it ought to be executed jointly, or if divided that the division of the whole that is of the procuring Supplies in one Place replacing them by others and transporting both should be equal, by which I mean proportioned to our abilities as rated in the Continental Scale. This may be done in several different ways: 1<sup>st</sup> by dividing among us the Line of Transportation into such parts as when combined with the quantity to be transported along each part will produce a total duly proportioned between us; 2<sup>d</sup> by putting into the hands of a Quarter Master due Proportions of Money or means of Transportation to be by him employed in carrying on our Specifics from their respective States; 3<sup>d</sup>, For each State to appoint it's own Agent & to procure their quota of Specifics as near as they can to the army, replacing their money by Sale of such Specifics as might be raised within their State by Taxation. The first & second modes are liable to this Objection that the Transportation will cost very considerably more than would purchase the articles in the Vicinities of the Army.

Should these nevertheless or any other mode which can be thought of be more agreeable to your Excellency and the President of Delaware we shall be ready at any Time to proceed to settle the arrangement, or as the settlement of it by Way of Letter might draw it to a great Length, I would propose to refer it to be done by y<sup>e</sup> Delegates from the respective States in Congress. Should the third mode suggested above be preferred as it would be carried into separate Execution no Reference would be requisite.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 163.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Davies

Sir,

In Council March 6<sup>th</sup> 1781

I inclose you a Letter from Col<sup>o</sup> Waggoner & Depositions on the Subject of Mattenly's Complaint on which I had written to him: They appear to justify his Conduct. The Tobacco note which Mattenly supposed should have been given him has been returned by Col<sup>o</sup> Waggoner to the Auditors.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

(*From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Coms.*)

Sir

In Council Mar. 6. 1781.

I beg leave to lay before the General Assembly the inclosed letter from the honble Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Baron Steuben containing some propositions for the internal defence of our State.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE MUTER.

(*From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.*)

In Council Mar. 6. 1781.

The board acknowledge that the manner in which Colo Muter has stated his acceptance of the appointment as a Commissioner of the War Office, is just. They think that if any doubt arises on the act or resolution of assembly, the application to explain it should be, as the law directs, to the Attorney general, or to the Genl. Court: and that if by the act or resolution Colo Muter is excluded, it would be proper that any application on the subject to the Genl. Assembly should be made by himself.<sup>280</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOSEPH HOLMES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 163.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Holmes

In Council March 7<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

As we have at present a great superiority of Prisoners of war in our hands, and artificers and manufacturers are very much wanting in the different parts of the Country, we are of Opinion it will be advantageous to the State to permit such artificers and manufacturers as may be useful to settle in the Country restraining them to some particular county subject to the orders of the County Lieutenant, and retaining their names in the Calendar of Prisoners and the Places to which they are permitted to go, that they may be called for if any future event should render it necessary: they should be allowed no rations during their absence. If you approve of this I could recommend it to you to act accordingly, exercising your Discretion as to the Counties to which they are permitted to go. It does not seem proper that they should be in the Counties near Tide-waters or near the armies of the enemy. The County Lieutenant should moreover be attentive that they do not escape, take measures for their Recovery whenever they do and notify it to you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," II, 483.*)

Richmond, March 7th, 1781— 8 oclk, P. M.

Sir,

The enclosed came to hand this moment, as I make no doubt it communicates what was mentioned in a letter from the Marquis to me received at the same time, I shall not trouble you with it. Scows which the Marquis desires for the transportation of cannon, cannot venture into the wide waters over which they will have to be transported, as I apprehend. Flats (which abound in York River) are

<sup>280</sup>The letter is written on back of letter from Col. Muter. It was omitted—inadvertantly, no doubt—from the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers."

the best vessels for this purpose as I am informed. You may have the best information on this head at York, and I must trouble you to order Flats, or, whatever other vessels will best answer to be procured. The Marquis is very anxious to have the Works at York put into proper order. I hope Genl. Nelson's influence may have enabled him to procure hands for this business. The Four Battery Pieces with their Carriages, and one Mortar with its bed are got on board to-day. The other Mortar, without a bed; will be on board this evening, with 6000 lb. of powder, and they will fall down to Hoods, where the armed vessels were directed to, there to await your orders. We found that there were iron beds at Cumberland for the Mortars; these I ordered down with the shells which were to go thence. — 1000 lb of powder set out for York this morning: by a letter from Genl. Weedon. I find the numbers he will actually bring will be but about 700. Capt Smith gave me hopes that he could raise 30 horsemen, but did not seem positive; I have not heard from him lately.<sup>281</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. MUTER.

(*From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.*)

In Council Mar. 7, 1781.

The Intrenshing tools at Fredericksburg are Continental property; I cannot therefore doubt but that Baron Steuben has ordered them down with Genl Weedon if wanting. The order to our Q. M. is proper. It is apprehended that the Surgeon should be chozen by the officers of the regiment as the law directs.<sup>282</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM LEWIS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 163.*)

Captain Lewis,<sup>283</sup>

In Council March 8<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I am informed that the several persons whose Services we desire to avail ourselves of on this occasion, wish an authentic assurance of what before I had communicated to you verbally. You are therefore authorized to inform them that their vessels and their Loading shall be ensured by the State, that a reasonable hire shall be paid for their vessels and men, and the usual share of prize and plunder allowed. I have no reason to believe that the British are at present at Liberty to come out of Elizabeth River, but this will not long be the Case. You will lie close at Hood's 'til you receive further orders as before directed.

<sup>281</sup>Letter not copied into the letter book.

<sup>282</sup>This letter is written on back of letter from Col. Muter as asking for directions as to several subjects. Abstract of Col. Muter's letter is given in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 561, but, strange to say, Jefferson's letter does not there appear.

<sup>283</sup>William Lewis.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 164.*)

Richmond March 8<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving last night your Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> instant and of learning of your arrival at the Head of Elk three Days sooner than General Washington had given us reason to expect. In the mean Time I hope you will have received my answer to your first Letter which I forwarded by Express to the Head of Elk, and which is of greater Importance a Letter from Baron Steuben, who commands in this State, explaining to you what he proposed.

The Number of Militia desired by the Baron will be provided, though not quite so early as had been proposed, so that your Delays at the head of Elk will not produce any inconvenience. Arnold's Retreat is at this Time cut off by land. Provisions & Arms for the Troops are in readiness, and the Quarter Masters are exerting themselves to get Horses. their success is slow and doubtful. Oxen I apprehend must be used in some measure for the artillery. We have no heavy field artillery mounted. Four battering Cannon (French 18<sup>lbs</sup>) with two 12 Inch Mortars fall down from this place this evening. Scows I am afraid cannot be used for the Transportation of your Cannon on the wide Waters where your Operations will be carried on. We shall endeavour to procure other vessels the best we can. The total Destruction of our Trade by the Enemy has put it out of our Power to make any great Collection of Boats. Some armed vessels of public and some of private property are held in readiness to cooperate, but as they are in James River they cannot venture down 'til the Command of the Water is taken from the Enemy. Baron Steuben is provided with the most accurate drawings we have of the vicinities of Portsmouth: they are from actual Survey of the Land and as to information of the navigation the most authentick will be obtained from the pilots in that neighbourhood, ten of the best of which are provided. I shall continue to exert my best endeavours to have in Readiness what yet remains to be done, and shall with great pleasure meet your desires on this important business, and see that they be complied with as far as our Condition will render practicable. On this and every other occasion I will take the liberty of begging the freest Communications with you.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 165.*)

[The first four paragraphs of the letter were sent also to President of Congress, Baron Steuben, and Speaker of the House of Delegates.]

General Washington

Sir,

Richmond March 8<sup>th</sup> 1781

I had the pleasure of receiving a Letter from General Greene dated High Rock Ford February 29<sup>th</sup> (probably March 1<sup>st</sup>) who

informs that on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> McCall surprised a Subalterns Guard at Hart's Mill killed eight and wounded and took three prisoners, and that on the 25<sup>th</sup> General Pickens & Lieutenant Col<sup>o</sup> Lee routed a Body of near 300 Tories on the Haw River who were in arms to join the British Army, killed upwards of one hundred and wounded most of the rest, which had had a very happy effect on the disaffected in that Country.

By a Letter from Major Magill an Officer of this State whom I had sent to General Greene's head quarters for the purpose of giving up regular Intelligence dated Guilford County March 2<sup>d</sup>, I am informed that Lord Cornwallis on his retreat erected the British standard at Hillsborough, that a number of disaffected under the Command of a Col<sup>o</sup> Piles were resorting to it when they were intercepted by General Pickens & Lt Col<sup>o</sup> Lee as mentioned by General Greene, and that their Commanding officer was among the slain, that Lord Cornwallis after destroying every thing he could at Hillsborough moved down the Haw river, that General Greene was within six miles of him, that our superiority in the Goodness tho' not the number of Cavalry prevented the enemy from moving with rapidity or foraging.

Having desired Major Magill to be particular in informing me what Corps of Militia from this State joined General Greene, he accordingly mentions that 700 under General Stevens & 400 from Boteourt had actually joined Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene, that Col<sup>o</sup> Campbell was to join him that Day with 600 & Col<sup>o</sup> Lynch with 300 from Bedford were shortly expected, the last three numbers being riflemen: besides these mentioned by Major Magill Gen<sup>l</sup> Lawson must before that Time have crossed Roanoke with a body of militia, the number of which has not been stated to me, report makes them 1000, but I suppose the number to be exaggerated.

Four hundred of our new Levies left Chesterfield Courthouse on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February and probably would cross the Roanoke about the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>d</sup> of March.

I was honored with your Excellency's Letter of———within 7 Days after it's Date. We have accordingly been making every Preparation on our part which we were able to make. The Militia proposed to operate will be upwards of 4000 from this State and 1000 from [to] 1200 from Carolina said to be under General Gregory. The Enemy are at this Time in a great measure blockaded by land there being a force on the East side of Elizabeth river, tho they have a free Exit from Elizabeth River. They suffer for provisions as they are afraid to venture far enough to marode [maraud] in any great Degree, lest the French Squadron should be in their neighbourhood and come on them. Were it possible to block up the river a little Time would suffice to reduce them by want & desertions, and would be more sure in it's Event than an Attempt by Storm. I shall be very happy to have it in my Power to hand you a favourable account of these two armies in the South.

N. B. The letter to the three last extends only to the end of the sixth line on this page [end of fourth paragraph of the letter].



GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES  
IN CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 166.*)

The honble Virginia Delegates in Congress

In Council March 8<sup>th</sup> 1781

Gentlemen

The inclosed papers so fully explain themselves that I need say nothing more to apprise you of the Subject. Should the Governor of Maryland and President of Maryland [Pennsylvania] not close with my third proposition you are hereby authorized to treat with the Delegates of those two States or any other Person appointed by the States and to settle the best method of availing the Southern Army of their Supplies. The proposition from Gov<sup>r</sup> Lee nor anything like it can possibly be admitted on our part. I have the Honor to be with great respect & esteem,

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 167.*)

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

In Council March 9<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I think it my Duty to communicate to the General Assembly the inclosed Papers giving information of the refusal of considerable numbers of Militia within certain Counties to come into the Field, and the Departure of some others in Defiance with their arms.

The crisis at which these instances of Disobedience to the laws have appeared may bring on peculiar ill Consequences. I have taken the liberty of mentioning it to the General Assembly as it may perhaps suggest to them some amendments of the invasion Law or as they might wish to advise the proper measures to be taken on the present Occasion.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 167.*)

County Lieutenants of Chesterfield and Dinwiddie

In Council March 9<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

It being absolutely necessary to send an immediate Reinforcement of Militia to General Muhlenburg's Camp, I am to desire you without Delay to send effective men from your County to him. I will assure you that they shall be detained but a few Days, which considering the Shortness of Time they were out on the last Call will not more than make their Times of Service equal to those of the other Counties on the South Side of James River all of whom have men now in the field either with the Southern Army or at Suffolk.

Be pleased to notify to me the Time of their march, I apprehend they will find Arms at General Muhlenburg's Camp, but still would advise that they carry what good muskets they have.<sup>283a</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 167.*)

Speaker of the House of Delegates

In Council March 9<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

The Executive were informed during the last summer or Fall that the Accomack and Diligence Gallies were deserted by officers & men & left open to be plundered of their Guns and Furniture. Orders were immediately given to Commodore Baron to arrest the Officers to have the men sought for and taken, one of the Gallies brought round to the Bayside of the Eastern Shore & manned with the same men and the other to be brought to the Western Shore to be repaired: The Bay being infested with privateers at that Time prevented the immediate Execution of the Orders, and the subsequent Invasions which took place in October & December have continued the Interruption of our Intercourse with that Shore. In the mean Time we learn that the vessels have been much plundered, and their Hulls so injured as to render it doubtful whether worth repairing. We have taken [and] shall continue to pursue measures for punishing those who have thus abused the public and recovering indemnification, but should it be most expedient to dispose of the Hulls the Sanction of the General Assembly if they approve of it would be necessary.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR TURBERVILLE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 168.*)

Major Turberville

In Council March 10. 1781

Sir,

I am sorry to find that your detaining some Letter from Baron Steuben to Lieutenant Hare has been viewed by him in an offensive Light insomuch as that he has made it the Subject of Part of a Letter to me. As I am satisfied you would not mean to keep it with this View, I will take the liberty of requesting you to return it to him by a safe Conveyance. Your own understanding will I am sure naturally lead to accompany it with such an Apology as the Respect due to the Barons Character and command will suggest to you.

Engaged in a Contest wherein Dissensions would be so fatal we cannot be too studious how to remove every Cause which may give rise to them.

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<sup>283a</sup>The Journal of the Council for March 9, 1781, shows that 164 men were ordered from Chesterfield and 187 from Dinwiddie.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 168.*)

General Weedon

In Council March 10<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I have laid before the Board your Letter of yesterday handed me by M<sup>r</sup> Page. They are sorry it is not in their power to do what you desire as to M<sup>r</sup> Page and M<sup>r</sup> Fitzhugh, but on revisal [review] of the law they find that their powers do not extend to it. On the embodying the Militia the law authorizes the Executive to appoint General Officers. Nothing is said about their Aids, which therefore we suppose to be appointable only according to the Continental regulations, which prescribe both their number and rank. In like manner the giving military Commissions is restrained by the Laws to the Cases of actual Command in some one of the established Battalions. On a former occasion when the Board wished to give a brevet Commission they were obliged to apply to the Assembly who authorized it in that special Case. Apprehensive therefore that what they did in the same way in the invasion under Lesley was perhaps going too far they think it proper for them not to repeat it. Otherwise they are exceedingly disposed to furnish every possible facility to those in Command as well as to nourish the laudable Spirit which has induced these young Gentlemen to offer their Aid to their Country at this Time.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 169.*)

Baron Steuben

In Council March 10. 1781.

Sir

I received your favour of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant and am sorry to find that this distressing flag is not yet off our Hands. I sincerely wish that the perplexities she has introduced, she may not be more effectually working for our Enemies than if she had pursued their original Purpose.

This can only be avoided by candid explanation & dispassionate Judgment. The line of Conduct which the Executive meant to pursue as to this Flag cannot be more pointedly declared than in the Letter of the February which I had the Honour of writing you, a Copy of which I take the liberty of inclosing. They considered her from the Beginning within the military Line; they never proposed to make nor ever did make a single order on the Subject, or come to a Resolution except that which is declared in my Letter of February

a Copy of which is also inclosed whereby they laid down a general Rule that Compensations for plunder shall not be received from the Enemy.

In the Conversation which I had with Captain Walker wherein he mentioned your Sentiments & Purposes as to the person of M<sup>r</sup> Hare and his vessel, I declared to him my sense of the extreme im-

propriety of Mr. Hare's Conduct: That had I been [the] Officer to whom he had come I would have refused to do Business with him and have sent him back his Purposes uneffected, but that I would not for such a Cause have brought the sacred rights of the flag into Question, and that I concurred with you in Opinion that they should be dismissed.

The officers immediately connected with her did make some Reports to the Executive, but they were in every instance and immediately transmitted and transferred to you for Orders, one instance only excepted which was the following. Some few Days ago, I received a letter from Col<sup>o</sup> Innes desiring my opinion as to what should be done with M<sup>r</sup> Hare and the vessel; This conveyed to me the first notice that your order had not been obeyed, and that the vessel was drawn into a Court of Justice. I wrote in answer to Col<sup>o</sup> Innes, as well as I can recollect for I write this from memory that whatever Powers the Executive might have possessed over these Subjects, they had delegated them to you, that I doubted whether the Delegation had added any Thing to your powers as I conceived them before competent to the Subject, that as to M<sup>r</sup> Hare particularly whether considered as a Conductor of a Flag a Prisoner of War or a Spy he was subject to your order. That indeed as to the vessel since she was drawn into the possession of a Court being much unacquainted with the Subject I would take the Attory Generals Opinion on it & transmit it to him. I did so. I did not send these papers to you because I knew or believed you to be on the road to Williamsburg, where I took for granted the whole matter would be laid before you.

As to M<sup>r</sup> Hare's Person the Executive can with Truth disclaim having ever given an order on the Subject, and if you had supposed, as we are afraid from your Letter you do, that any Thing which has been done was in consequence of an order, advice or Recommendation from us we affirm that it was not: As little has the Detention of the vessel proceeded from the Executive. She is indeed in the Hands of the State, but it is of the Judiciary Parts of Government, which is as independent of them as is the Supreme Court of any other Country.

We are sorry the officers who transacted Business with M<sup>r</sup> Hare should have failed in obedience to your orders, and would do any Thing in our Power to support and manifest your authority, were any Thing wanting but nothing can be added to the provision which the military Institutions have made to enforce Obedience, and it would be presumption in us to say what is that Provision to you. These put into your own Hands the Satisfaction which you desire Government to procure you. Even your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Hare, which we must suppose Major Turbeville to have so improperly retained, it is most [not] in our Power to require authoritatively: to such an order no obedience would be exacted by the Laws. nevertheless he shall be written to on the subject as we cannot conceive but that, sensible of the Impropriety of such a detention, he will not need Compulsion to return it.

I must again express my uneasiness, at the unfortunate Consequences which may flow from the Conduct of the Gentlemen who



have managed this Business; however zealous may have been their Intention, I fear I foresee evils more lasting & weighty than the good which will result from them.

I trust I shall not fail of having your Concurrence in endeavouring to avoid them as far as shall depend on us.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 171.*)

Baron Steuben

Sir,

In Council March 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Since writing my letter of this Days Date, yours of yesterday has come to hand. The orders to the Counties which were to reinforce Gen<sup>l</sup> Muhlenburg, were that their Detachments should be with him on the fifth or at furthest the 6<sup>th</sup>. On receipt of the letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> informing us of the almost total deficiency of New Kent, we ordered 164 men from Chesterfield and 187 from Dinwiddie to be immediately assembled and marched to General Muhlenburg's Head quarters. We can only be answerable for the Orders we give, and not for the Execution: If they are disobeyed from obstinacy of spirit or want of Coercion in the Laws it is not our fault; we have done what alone remained for us to do in such Case, we have ordered other Militia from other Counties.

The Quarter Master applied to us on the Subject of the Horses required. He was furnished with impressing Powers. He again applied for militia to aid him in the execution of the Powers. We did not think proper to resign ourselves and our Country implicitly to the Demands of a Quartermaster, but thought we had some right of judgment left to us. We knew that an armed force to impress Horses was as unnecessary as it was new. The fact has been that our Citizens have been so far from requiring an armed Force for this purpose that they have parted with their Horses too easily by delivering them to every man who said he was riding on public Business and assumed a right of impressing. When therefore the militia have on their Hands a sufficiency of real Calls to Duty we did not think it proper to harrass them in cases where we had Reason to suspect they were not wished by the Quartermaster as militia but as servants. It was mentioned to the Quartermaster that in our opinion he could and should do but little in this neighbourhood & that of Petersburg which had been drained by constant Impresses: Nevertheless we furnished him with blank Powers to be exercised where he pleased. I have laid your Letter before the Assembly according to your Desire.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. GRANVILLE SMITH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 172.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Granville Smith

Sir,

In Council March 10<sup>th</sup> 1781

A very great and important [demand] has arisen for 130 Waggon Horses & 50 Saddle Horses. The Call is as immediate as it is im-

portant. I must therefore desire you to employ proper Persons to proceed without a moments Delay to procure them; as far as it can be done by voluntary Purchase that mode is to be preferred, but as Time urges I fear that much must be supplied by Impress. This method is exceedingly disagreeable to us as well as to the Holders of Horses. However if there ever was an Occasion whereon they would willingly let their Horses go into the public Service it should be the present, which bids fair to rid them of much future Trouble and expence. The Horses will be wanting a few Days only & for a very slight Service, and may be identically returned to their owners wherever desired. These Horses must be delivered at General Muhlenburg's Head Quarter's by Half dozens as fast as they are procured & at farthest by the 20<sup>th</sup> instant.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 172.*)

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

In Council March 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir

At the request of Major General Baron Steuben expressed in the inclosed letter, I take the liberty of laying it before you. The numbers of Militia necessary to be called into the field & time of their being there we begged the Baron to advise. He did so. Apprehending Deficiencies we ordered a considerably larger number. As soon as we received the Letters informing us of the Deficiencies from New Kent & Desertions from Cabin Point, finding that with those of Loudoun the number would be reduced below what he desired we ordered 351 from the Counties of Chesterfield & Dinwiddie. The time fixed by the Baron for the first Reinforcement was the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. Our Orders were that they should be there on the fifth or sixth at farthest; they were not there it seems on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

A number of Horses were required for special Purposes. We furnished the Quartermaster with impressing Powers. He applied for militia to aid him in the Execution of the Powers. We knew that an armed force to impress Horses was as unnecessary as it was new. The fact has been that our Citizens so far from requiring an armed force for this Purpose have parted with their Horses too easily by delivering them to every man who said he was riding on Public Business, and assumed a right of impressing. When therefore the Militia have on their Hands a sufficiency of real Calls to Duty, we did not think proper to harass them in Cases where we had reason to suspect they were not wished by the Quartermaster as militia, but as servants.

It was mentioned to the Quartermaster that in our Opinion he could and should do but little in this Neighbourhood & that of Petersburg which had been drained by constant Impresses; nevertheless we furnished him with blank Powers to be exercised where he pleased.<sup>284</sup>

<sup>284</sup>For Lee's reply see Ballagh's "Letters of Richard Henry Lee," II, 217.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 173.*)

Marquis La Fayette

Sir

Richmond, March 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Intending that this shall await your arrival in this State, I with great joy welcome you on that Event. I am induced to it from the very great Esteem I bear your Personal Character, and the Hopes I entertain of your relieving us from our Enemy within this State. Could any Circumstances have rendered your Presence more desirable or more necessary, it is the unfortunate one which obliges me to transmit you the inclosed papers.

I trust that your future Acquaintance with the Executive of the State will evince to you that among their faults is not to be counted a want of disposition to second the Views of the Commander against our common Enemy. We are too much interested in the present Scene and have too much at Stake to leave a doubt on that Head. Mild Laws, a People not used to war and prompt obedience, a want of the provisions of War & means of procuring them render our orders often ineffectual, oblige us to temporise and when we cannot accomplish an object in one way to attempt it in another. Your knowledge of these Circumstances with a temper accomodated to them ensure me your Cooperation in the best way we can when we shall be able to pursue the Way we would wish.

I still hope you will find our Preparations not far short of the Information I took the Liberty of giving you in my Letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant. I shall be very happy to receive your first Applications for whatever may be necessary for the Public Service and to convince you of our Disposition to promote it as far as the Abilities of the State and Powers of the Executive will enable us.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WOOD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 174.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Wood

Sir,

In Council March 12<sup>th</sup> 1781

I inclose you a copy of Congress directing that the Convention Prisoners shall be moved Northwardly by the way of Knowland's ferry.<sup>285</sup> Their ultimate destination is Lancaster in Pennsylvania. From Knowlands Ferry they are to be guarded and subsisted by the State of Maryland. I accordingly have apprized that State of their approach. You will be pleased to move them on immediately.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. HOLMES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 174.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Holmes

Sir,

In Council March 12th, 1781

I inclose you an Extract of a Letter from the President of Congress directing that the Prisoners of war taken at the Cowpens shall

<sup>285</sup>This should be Noland's Ferry. It is over the Potomac about forty miles above Washington, north of Leesburg, Loudon County.

be moved Northwardly by the Way of Knowlands Ferry. They will thence be subsisted and guarded by the State of Maryland. I accordingly apprise the Governor of Maryland of their Approach. You will be pleased to move them on immediately calling for a proper guard on the County of Frederic.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 174.*)

His Excellency Governor Lee

In Council March 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The prisoners of Convention & those taken at the Cowpens having been ordered on the late Approach of Lord Cornwallis to move on to our Northern Boundary, while Congress could be consulted as to what should be done with them I have received a Letter from the President from which the inclosed is extracted. They have I believe reached as far as Winchester from which place they are now ordered to move into Knowlands ferry, where the president in another letter informs me your Excellency will have made Provision for subsisting and guarding them further on. According to the Desire of Congress expressed in the presidents Letter I have taken the Liberty of communicating this to your Excellency.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN MAXWELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 175.*)

Captain Maxwell,<sup>286</sup>

Richmond March 12<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

As you have been so unluckily delayed about the delivery of the Dispatches to the French Commodore and you are exceedingly wanting above I must beg the favour of you to engage some trusty Person to deliver the Letters, finish whatever you have to do, and serves [serve] as a Guide and adviser to the Gentlemen who were to have gone on Board the French Commodore. I inform that Person in Confidence that the French Commodore is returned to Rhode Island and therefore that he need not attempt to search for him out of the Capes, the only Consequence of which would be his certain Capture. I have my Information from the Marquis Fayette, but it must not be communicated farther than to the Gentlemen who were to have gone on Board with you. No Attempt must be made to carry my Letter out till a French naval Force is actually known to be in the Bay.

I would wish you immediately to come up to the Shipyard, there see that the Jefferson and such other Public vessels as can be in readiness be prepared and either proceed to Hoods or to such other Place as you shall think best to carry into Execution such orders as shall be given by the Continental Commanding Officer or myself. Men

<sup>286</sup>For letters of Capt. Jas. Maxwell, dated March 5 and March 8, to the Governor, see "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 554 and 561.



must be impressed. You will also be pleased to proceed to Hoods or wherever else in James River you shall find the private armed vessels which are taken into the public Service, and are under the Direction of Captain Mitchell & Captain Lewis, and take such measures as may still be necessary to have them in Readiness for Cooperation. I have sent an order to the person Superintending at the Ship yard to furnish Major Claiborne with whatever Boats & Oars he has & to make what other Oars he wants immediately.

P. S. Having just received a Letter from the Marquis desiring some good lookout Boats you will be pleased to provide them ready at York to join the Marquis when he comes down. One to lie in Piankatank would be proper also and one in Rappahannock. This you can effect by proper agents & use Force where the Consent of the Owner cannot be obtained. Let these also join the Marquis as he comes.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
PUBLIC VESSELS AND WORKMAN AT THE  
SHIPYARD ON THE CHICKAHOMINY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 176.*)

Richmond March 12th 1781

Sir,

Be pleased to deliver to Major Claiborne Continental Deputy Quartermaster General whatever Boats are at the Shipyard or elsewhere in your Custody and which he shall think fit for Transportation across the Rivers. Also deliver to him whatever Oars you have and make immediately such number as he shall direct. If you have any of the Seamen or mariners at the yard which belong to the Public vessels and are not employed in those ordered into immediate Service let him have them to navigate the Boats.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
SHIPYARD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 176.*)

Richmond March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Captain Maxwell being absent, I am at a loss to know what is doing with the State vessels. He was desired to have them fitted for immediate Service, and I think said that the Jefferson one of the Gallies and If I mistake not the Tempest would be in Order.

Be pleased to see that this work be carried on with all possible Dispatch, and that the vessels be in readiness to execute the Orders of the Continental Commanding Officer. Let me hear from you immediately that I may know the present State of things.

Where is Commodore Baron? If I knew where to send to him I should require his assistance.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
HANOVER, CAROLINE, SPOTSYLVANIA & KING WILLIAM.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 177.)

In Council March 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

You will be pleased to send effective men of your militia immediately to Williamsburg under proper officers. I would advise that they carry what good firelocks they have. Deficiencies I expect may be supplied.

I must beseech you to lose no Time in executing this order as the aid of these men is immediately wanting. Should the Call of such a Proportion of your militia render the Prosecution of your Draught impracticable, you will be pleased to suspend the Draught until further Orders. I must expect your exertions to see that the full number be sent and that you inform me of it & the Time of their march.<sup>286a</sup>

|               |     |                   |     |
|---------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Hanover.....  | 245 | Spotsylvania..... | 120 |
| Caroline..... | 260 | King William..... | 55  |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. LEE.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 177.)

His Excellency Governor Lee

Richmond March 12<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Your Excellency's Favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> came to Hand last night. We have been endeavouring to procure what armed vessels we could, but they are in James river and of Course cannot possibly get out of that River, but under Countenance of a Naval power superior to that of the Enemy; and indeed they are so trifling that they could not venture up the Bay were they out of James River.

From the best accounts I have received the Enemy have three ships of Force within the Bay in addition to those which Arnold had before. The French Squadron has withdrawn from the Bay some considerable Time. We are doing our utmost to procure the boats necessary for landing the Cannon & Troops, that is we are taking every one in James River but they will fall very far short of what Baron Steuben deems necessary. The Boats in the upper part of the river cannot navigate the lower Parts, nor can any be carried round from the other Rivers. We feel ourselves so much interested in the Enterprize in Contemplation that we have set every Instrument into motion which can possibly avail us.

Our Exertions are much circumscribed by the want of means.<sup>287</sup>

<sup>286a</sup>Of course, it is to be understood that the blank in the first line of this form letter was filled out with the number 245 in the letter actually sent to the county lieutenant of Hanover County, with the number 260 in the letter sent to Caroline and so forth.

<sup>287</sup>For Lee's letter to which the above is a reply, see "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 561; and for his reply to the above, see *ibid.*, p. 573.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 178.*)

Marquis La Fayette

Richmond March 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The inclosed is a Copy of a Letter which was intended to have awaited you in Virginia. But as there seems to be a Probability that you will be detained at the Head of Elk longer than you could have expected I have thought it best to send a Copy there also.

An Idea having unfortunately got abroad that the militia now called on are intended to storm the Enemy's works at Portsmouth, the numbers which actually march from the several Counties are so far short of what we ordered as never happened before, & as to have baffled our Calculations on probable Deficiencies. As these have become further known & expected we have ordered in additional numbers. From this Cause I am informed the Blockade of Arnold on the Norfolk side has not taken place as I had reason to believe when I wrote to you on another Occasion.

By the best accounts I can get the Enemy have three vessels of Force in the Bay in addition to those Arnold had before. What few armed vessels we could get are in James River, and cannot be got out nor, could we get them out, are they of force sufficient to venture up the Bay. Should a French naval Force superior to that of the enemy arrive in the Bay, I make no Doubt you will still think it necessary to be assured that there are not in the upper part of the Bay vessels of the Enemy sufficient to do you Injury. I fear the number of Boats requisite for landing your men & Cannon will be very defective.

Baron Steuben thinks 20 necessary, but there cannot be half that number procured. The boats built for use in the upper Part of James river cannot navigate the lower parts of it nor can any be brought round from the other rivers. perhaps it will be in your power to bring a number of boats with you. We have every instrument in motion which can avail us on this most interesting Occasion, but a want of means circumscribes our Exertions. I think it proper therefore to reduce your expectations from what should be ready to what probably will be ready, and even calculating on probabilities I find it necessary to reduce my own expectation at Times. I know that you will be satisfied to make the most of an unprepared [people] who have the war now for the first Time seriously fixed in their Country, and have therefore all those Habits to acquire which their Northern Brethren had in the year 1776 and which they have purchased at so great an expence.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 179.*)

Sir

March 12

Since writing the preceeding I have been honoured with your Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup>. The first notification of this Enterprize came to

me on the night of the last Day of February. We were informed there were few or no armed vessels in the three northern rivers and supposed if there were any they could not be impressed manned & brought into place by the Time at which it was then thought they would be wanting. We confined ourselves therefore to James river. It is now certainly too late to attempt the other rivers. We had but one Galley in order. She went down the river some time ago & having never been heard of since we fear some accident has happened to her. We had before sent down 6000 lbs of Cannon powder and now order 4000 lb more which goes very deep into our present Stock. Ten Pilots are provided. I will lodge some maps for you so as that they shall be delivered to you on your arrival. I now give orders for look out boats to be ready in Rappahannock, Piankatank & York rivers. I cannot say what may be expected from them. The articles wanting in the Quartermaster's & Engineers departments as stated in their Invoice, will most of them be got, as the orders for them go out to Day only they will of Course be rather late. I send off to the neighbourhood of the intended operations to procure the plank. I expect it will not be very easily or speedily provided. As to the Artificers required I can give you but little Hope. They are exceedingly scarce in this Country. Endeavours shall not be wanting, but still they must not be counted on. Provisions will be in readiness.

This is a summary view of what is done may be done, is doubtful or desperate on the several Articles enumerated in your Letter. I pray you to make no Difficulties in communicating freely what may be done wanted for the service, being desirous of contributing every Thing which our State can do or produce for the succesful prosecution of the enterprize and confiding that you will put the most candid Constructions where we fail as you will too soon find a full Compliance beyond the reach of our abilities.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. THOMAS NEWTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 180.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Thomas Newton <sup>288</sup>

Sir,

In Council March 12 th 1781

Mr Rowland comes down on a Business of very great & pressing Importance which he will communicate to you. I have too often experienced your readiness in aiding the public operations and therefore with the more freedom recommend him to you and solicit your Co-operation and utmost exertions.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL MUHLENBERG.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 180.*)

General Muhlenburg

Sir,

Richmond March 13th 1781

The Marquis Fayette having desired a number of waggon and

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<sup>288</sup>A leading citizen of Norfolk; former commissioner of the Virginia State Navy Board.



Saddle Horses and Col<sup>o</sup> Pickering fixing the number of the former at 130 and of the latter at 50, we authorized the Continental Quartermaster to procure them, lest he should fail however the State Quartermaster is ordered to get as many as he can and to send them to be kept at your Camp under some careful person to be appointed by himself till the arrival of the Marquis. I am to beg the favor of you to aid him with your authority so far as necessary for foraging and safe keeping the Horses.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 180.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Davies

Richmond March 13<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Your favors of March 8<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> have remained so long unanswered from a constant Hurry of Business, but orders were immediately given for executing your requisitions as far as could be.

Mr Armistead tells me he has procured you one set of Shoemakers Tools, being the whole to be found here which now go to you; He sends also the Deer skins which on receipt of your Letter on that Subject I had ordered to be sent by a return waggon from your post. I am now told she could not take them in which had I known a waggon should have been immediately sent express. I am much afraid we shall find great Difficulty in procuring Leather. I will send to the Barracks to know if there be any ready there, 'tho by the account I had of our last supply from thence it was so ill in quality as not to be worth sending for. I shall not fail to have other resources for Leather tried also.

The ten thousand Dollars you desire shall be furnished whenever you shall direct it to be called for. The warrant is lodged with Mr. Armistead.

Have you found yet our regulations for the Clothiers Department? I shall be glad to receive them if you have & to be informed if you think you shall not be able to find it.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN BANISTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 181.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Banister

In Council March 13th, 1781.

Sir,

We think it certain that Overby & Wells may be tried by a Court Martial at Camp, but doubtful whether they can in the County. Their Trial there also will be more likely to be supported by proper evidence and will have a better effect by way of example. For these reasons we will desire the favor of you to send them to General Muhlenburg's Headquarters.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN JAMES MAXWELL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 181.)*

Captain Maxwell,

In Council March 13th 1781.

Sir,

Be pleased to procure immediately a pilot Boat to go as a Flag to Charles-Town for the Conveyance of a Letter and to let me know where she shall be ready.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 181.)*

Mr. David Ross

In Council March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

General Scott<sup>289</sup> has obtained Leave to receive Tobacco from this State for the Support of our prisoners in Charlestown. As the easiest way of cloathing them will be to remit them their Pay in hard money to be procured there with Tobacco to be sent him hence, You will be pleased to procure them 300 Hogsheads of Tobacco which amount to about three months Pay. I am sending a flag pilot Boat there to bring a regular passport which the General failed to send me, on the Return of which it would be proper that a vessel should be ready to go with the Tobacco.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF ACCOMACK AND NORTHAMPTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 182.)*

To the County Lieutenant[s] of Accomack &amp; Northampton

In Council March 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

On further Consideration of the paragraph in my Letter of January 19<sup>th</sup> requiring the public Arms in the Hands of the People to be sought for & collected together we are of Opinion it will be better to dispense with it in the two Counties on the Eastern Shore. You will therefore be pleased to consider it as dispensed with.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. ROBERT MITCHELL OR CAPTAIN WILLIAM LEWIS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 182.)*M<sup>r</sup> Robert Mitchell or Capt<sup>n</sup> William Lewis

In Council March 14th, 1781.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you of the arrival of the Marquis de La Fayette at York. Whether a Naval Force is come yet or not,

I have not heard. I hope this will find you at Hoods with your little Fleet. Should it not I must request you to fall down there immediately with all the vessels. A vessel with some provisions for the Army and other articles goes from hence this evening. Be pleased to receive her under your care. You may hourly expect Orders from the Marquis Fayette.

I am very desirous to know what force you have.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. FRANCIS TAYLOR.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 182.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> F. Taylor

Sir,

In Council March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Before this comes to Hand Col<sup>o</sup> Wood will have received Orders to carry on the Conventioners to Knowlands Ferry thence to be guarded by the State of Maryland. At that Place therefore you will please to discharge such of your regiment as were enlisted to serve only during the Continuance of the Conventioners in Albemarle or in this State.

Be pleased on their discharge to have their dues of pay & clothing settled and let every man be furnished with a Certificate of his own Dues and a general State of them be returned to me. That M<sup>r</sup> Martin did not receive money to pay them off out of the last Stock proceeded from the accident of the removal of the Treasury just at the time of his application. They shall be paid off out of the emission now under Contemplation of the assembly. The Auditors inform me that they at first apprehended your officers entitled to the Depreciation money & prepared several warrants but that on more mature Consideration they changed their Opinion & revoked the warrants. It will be necessary therefore for you to make application as the law directs to the Attorney General or the General Court, or, if you be clearly out of the purview of the resolution to petition the assembly.

Orders went ten Days ago for Capt<sup>n</sup> Reads Troop to come here. Clothes are preparing for them and if their Horses be too poor for Service, they may be sent to some of the places nearer this where Stores of Forage are provided, and from which we can call them into service at the Point of time when exigencies require it & their Condition will admit.

General Hamilton refuses at present to credit any advances to the Convention Officers which are not made in *Specie*, which deprives us of the mutual Convenience which would have arisen from Col<sup>o</sup> Mingen's acceding to my proposition. Be so good therefore as to return my Thanks to that Gentleman and inform him of this.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 183.*)

Sir

In Council March 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

We just receive the pleasing Information of your safe arrival at York yesterday. My Letters of the 12<sup>th</sup> which were sent to the Head

of Elk (Duplicates of which accompany this) will inform you that we were endeavouring to accomplish your several Requisitions. I now inclose you a List of Articles actually procured which will go from this place this evening, most of them in waggons to General Muhlenburgs Head quarters. Some heavy Articles particularly about 1500 Gallons of Rum, some flour and the 20 seasoned Oak Planks go in a vessel down the river. Four Smiths go with the waggons. The articles not stated in the inclosed Paper, will I am in Hopes be procured by an Agent I have sent to the neighbourhood of Suffolk, who will also engage what Artificers can be found.

I am informed that there will be ready at the public Shipyard on Chickahominy on friday next 4 Boats well fitted for your Purpose, Others are collecting in the rivers to rendezvous at Hoods. The Galley I mentioned in my Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> is at the same shipyard & another is got ready. They are very light and want men as do two armed vessels belonging to the State at the same place. I have desired Cap<sup>tn</sup> Maxwell (at present I believe at York) who in Consequence of former orders has I expect provided men to come to the Ship yard and see these several vessels put into motion. I have the pleasure to inclose you herewith a small map of the vicinities of Williamsburg York Hampton & Portsmouth done on a scale of 5 miles to the inch which may serve for Pocket Purposes, and a larger one of the vicinities of Portsmouth on a scale of a mile to the inch which may be resorted to where greater accuracy is requisite. They are both from actual surveys and are the best in our power to provide for you. The larger one is a Copy of original draught, the smaller is very carefully reduced from them. Provisions cannot fail if the Commissaries look forward. I must beg the favor of you to give strict orders to the issuing Commissary to give me very timely notice when any thing like want shall be approaching, because Time is requisite in this State to comply with any Call. The State purchasing Commissary was ordered by me besides the Bread & animal Food to lay in at Gen<sup>l</sup> Muhlenburg's Camp or at a proper place in it's neighbourhood a hundred thousand rations.

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 184.)*

The Honble Virginia Delegates in Congress

*Gentlemen*

In Council March 15<sup>th</sup> 1781.

A Difference of opinion having taken place between the Executive of this State and M<sup>r</sup> Simon Nathan as to the rate at which certain Bills of exchange should be discharged in paper money we have agreed with him to refer it to such Gentlemen of Knowledge in the Laws of established Character & of any other State as yourselves shall mutually agree on with him. Their award shall be performed by the State, which means to stand in the place as well of the Drawer as Drawee. M<sup>r</sup> Wilson & M<sup>r</sup> Serjeant had been consulted by M<sup>r</sup> Nathan.



I inclose to you M<sup>r</sup> Pendleton's and Wythe's Opinion. You will be pleased to observe that the State of the Case requires from M<sup>r</sup> Nathan actual proof that he took up the Bills at par. M<sup>r</sup> Nathan having agreed with us all the facts as stated, I am to suppose nothing contrary to them will be received, as his Signature here was omitted perhaps it would be best for you to require it before submission. It is not our Desire to pay off these Bills according to the present Depreciation but according to their actual value in hard money at the time they were drawn with Interest. The State having received value so far as it is just it should be substantially paid. All beyond this would be plunder made by some person or other. The Executive in the most candid manner departed from the advantage which their Tender law gave them in the beginning. It seems very hard to make this the means of obtaining an unjust Gain from the State.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, RICHARD HENRY LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 185.*)

In Council March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir

The Marquis Fayette desired me among the articles most essential for an enterprize at the Head of which he is, to procure 130 Draught Horses for Artillery & 50 saddle Horses for Officers to act on. I gave Power & Instructions to have them procured by Purchase if possible & if not by Impress.

One of the Quarter masters employed in this Business informs me that he has purchased some and impressed others on valuations by men on oath & deemed honest which are rated as high as £30,000, and most of them very much above what is reasonable. These Circumstances are very embarrassing. To retain the Horses at such enormous prices threatens Ruins on one Hand, on the other to discharge them endangers an Enterprize which if successful would relieve us from an Enemy whose Presence is attended with continued Expence, Fatigue & Danger. Under this perplexity I am happy to have it in my power to ask the advice of the General Assembly. The Quarter master was under orders from his commanding officer to set out this morning with what Horses he had, but I have detained him till the sense of the General Assembly may be had on the Subject.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL MUHLENBERG.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 185.*)

General Muhlenburg

In Council March 16<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

We have thought it better to change our Line of Expresses from hence to your Head Quarters and make it cross the river at Hoods. M<sup>r</sup> Kempe comes down with sundry articles procured at the request of the Marquis and to procure others which could not be got here.

These you will be so kind as to have taken Care of to be delivered to the particular Order of the Marquis when he shall arrive. I before wrote to ask the favor of you to take measures for the Subsistence & safe Custody of the Horses procured for the Marquis by M<sup>r</sup> Smith or his agents.

The Militia who were first called into Service and still remain are as I am informed impatient to be relieved. They should certainly have been relieved before this, but it cannot be unknown to them that an Enterprize is meditated which may put an end in some measure to the necessity of calling them from their Homes in future. I think that a succesful attempt on the present Army in Portsmouth will prevent our enemies from ever trusting another in Chesapeake. To change the whole militia at such a Crisis would be the most dangerous operation that could be attempted. I will beg you to assure them that the moment this Enterprize is over, & I hope not very many Days will be requisite a Relief shall be ready to take their places if a relief shall be necessary. I shall be glad to hear from you frequently

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. ——— GODWIN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 186.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Godwin

In Council March 15. 1781

Sir,

I received and laid before the Board your application in Favour of James Pedin & others. They would have wished extremely to have it in their Power to comply with your Desires as well from an Inclination to shew their respect to yourself & the several other Gentlemen whose names are subscribed [as] on account of the former meritorious Conduct of those Persons as represented by you, but they are of opinion it is utterly inconsistent with the Proclamation. The Principle which that establishes is that no Citizen taken on his farm, not in Arms, nor acting under the immediate orders of his Commanding Officer can according to the Law of nations be deemed or detained as a Prisoner of War.

The Intention of it was if the Enemy should continue to act in Defiance of the Law of Nations by obliging them to take with them such pretended prisoners to put it out of their Power for want of Subsistance & accomodation for great numbers to continue that Practice beyond a certain extent and thus to prevent them from disarming a whole country which they cannot otherwise subdue.

They have conquered South Carolina by Paroles alone. They will conquer us also if we admit their validity. Thus you see Sir that the application is inconsistent with the immediate Object of the proclamation & cannot be complied without annulling that & in our Opinion exposing our Country to the last of Evils. I hope you will consider this as our Apology for not complying with the request presented in your name and that of the several other respectable Gentlemen whose names are joined with yours.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE ELLIOTT.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 187.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Elliott

Sir,

Richmond March 16th, 1781.

You will be pleased to return the Stud Horses & Mares kept for breeding of those which have been impressed under the powers given by me in Consequence of the requisitions for the Service near Portsmouth.

Proper Persons shall be appointed to value the residue according to the Directions of the Resolutions of Assembly of this Day's Date.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, RICHARD HENRY LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 187.*)

To the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Sir,

In Council March 17<sup>th</sup> 1781

I take the liberty of inclosing to the General Assembly the within Proposition from M<sup>r</sup> Ross the Commercial Agent for the State as the Legislature alone can carry it into Effect, should it meet with approbation.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, RICHARD HENRY LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 187.*)

To the Speaker of the House of Delegates

Sir,

In Council March 17<sup>th</sup> 1781

The inclosed act of Congress will inform you of the final ratification of the Confederation of thirteen United States of America.

I beg Leave to congratulate the General Assembly on this very important Event, by which a firm Bond of Union is drawn on these States, our friends enabled to repose Confidence in our Engagements, and our Enemies deprived of their only remaining Hope.<sup>290</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 187.*)

Mr Ross

Sir,

In Council. March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

I have laid before the General Assembly your proposition for giving the State a privilege of exporting & importing in all private

<sup>290</sup>The letter actually sent the speaker of the House of Delegates ought to be, of course, in the Virginia State Archives, but is in fact one of the large number lost to the archives in the course of time by various vicissitudes. It is now in the Morgan Collection, New York.

vessels to a certain Extent. The Quartermaster for the State is bound to convey any Stores you may provide to any place you direct. I inclose you an order on the State Commissary for all Hides which now or may hereafter be in his Possession. As to those in possession of the Continental Commissary, I have no Doubt he will deliver them to you cheerfully on your crediting the Continent for their value. Should he have any hesitations we will recommend it to him.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. SAMUEL GRIFFIN, COL. JAMES SOUTHALL, AND MR. ROBERT ANDERSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 188.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Griffin, Col<sup>o</sup> Southall & M<sup>r</sup> Anderson.<sup>291</sup>

In Council March 17<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Gentlemen,

A number of Horses having been impressed for the use of the army collecting before Portsmouth and having been valued in the ordinary way to such prices as no State could pay nor should any man wish to receive, the General Assembly have come to the resolution now inclosed. The Executive for the Purpose of carrying it into Execution beg the favor of you or any two of you to undertake the valuation of the Horses collected at Williamsburg and a parcel under Col<sup>o</sup> Elliott which will be at Burwell's ferry tomorrow evening impressed under the Powers recited in the resolution and any others of the same discription which may be in the neighbourhood of Williamsburg now or hereafter.

It will be necessary that Major Claiborne the Quarter Master [be furnished] with a distinct Certificate of your valuation for every Owner so far as shall relate to his own Horses, and that you be so good as to return to me a List of the Certificates stating every owners name, the number of his Horses and Sum due. That you may go on sure Ground we think it adviseable that the valuation should be in Tobacco dischargeable in Paper money at the rate fixed by the Grand Jury next preceding paiment.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN BANISTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 188.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Bannister

In Council March 17<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Dear Sir,

Mr Dodson receives his balance of £4413—4—11, He also receives for you £6060, but this the board has directed to be account. It was agreed with General Lawson that if his Troopers could furnish Leather, the State Artificers should assist in making Caps, but it never was agreed or intended that the State should purchase Caps for them, and had the demand been made on them in the first In-

<sup>291</sup>Mr. Robert Anderson was at this time one of the leading citizens of Williamsburg.



stance it would have been rejected. However as you have advanced the money on the best of motives out of your own pocket they agree to the payment supposing the Caps either have been delivered to some proper Officer of the State or that they can be recovered. As the advance you made was without their order and was such a one as they could not have made; they are in Hopes you will take measures for tracing the Caps wherever they be so that they may be recovered & this money may not be a clear Loss to the State.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 189.*)

Colonel Davies

Richmond March 19<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

My Letter of the 13 will have answered your former Letters & part of your last and the superscription will explain to you why it was so late coming. One article I omitted to answer that is whether you should receive Deserters from Colo Syme in Lieu of the Levies under the last law.

The Description in the act of those who are to be received is that they be recruits fit for present Duty, between 18 & 50 of able body and sound mind who is neither a Prisoner of war a Deserter from the enemy, nor engaged, &c. The term recruit seems clearly to exclude one who, tho' a Deserter is still belonging to the Army. Deserters would not have been received under the former law instead of recruits had it not been expressly provided in the Law and such proviso being omitted in the Law now under a Course of Execution. I should suppose they should not be received. Nevertheless the receiving Officers & not the Executive are the proper Judges of this matter.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN ROBERT MITCHELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 189.*)

Captain Robert Mitchell

Richmond March 19<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Information I received of the Arrival of the Marquis Fayette was premature. One of his Transports arrived at York which left the Marquis and the rest of the Fleet off the mouth of Patuxent. I said nothing in my Powers to you about valuing the vessels as the Law of itself directed it.

I am in Hopes you will be able to get some proper Judges to do this. I am too much a stranger to those in that Tract of Business to point out any. I think the valuation had better be in Tobacco dischargeable at the rates affixed by the Grand Jury next preceding payment. The Capture of St Eustatia is now confirmed. We learn that Great Britain declared war against the Dutch States on January 6<sup>th</sup> and that Admiral Rodney took Possession of St Eustatia Feb-

ruary 3<sup>d</sup>, and detached a Squadron to seize on Curacoa. Perhaps this event will render the Detention of the vessels less inconvenient. I much wonder that M<sup>r</sup> Brown should have suffered the vessels to be out of Provisions after the Directions I gave him & what he told me. He is not in Town at this Time, but I will have the matter immediately remedied. I inclose you an order for a Hogshead of Spirits to be taken out of a vessel which falls down to Hoods with Flour, Spirits and military Stores for the Army collecting before Portsmouth.

The Order extends to flour also. I will give orders for Grape Shot & Cartridge paper to be sent you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 190.*)

Marquis Fayette

Richmond March 19<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Your Letters of the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> inst came to Hand at Noon of this Day. I beg leave to inform you that for the Purpose of speedy Communications between the Executive & the Commanding Officers expresses are established from this place through Williamsburg to Hampton every fifteen miles Distance, and that a Quartermaster is now employed in establishing a similar Line from hence to the Army before Portsmouth crossing James River at Hoods. These Expresses are ordered to ride Day and night. You will be pleased to set the Line in motion whenever you shall think proper. Besides the exertions of the Continental Quarter Master to procure Horses we instructed the State Quarter master to send out Agents on the same Business in Order to ensure the number required by Col<sup>o</sup> Pickering which was 50 Saddle Horses & 130 Draught Horses. What his agents could procure we ordered to be at General Muhlenburgs Head Quarters by the 20<sup>th</sup>. I shall order him to continue his efforts in aid of the Continental Quarter master ten Days longer.

In a Country whose means of payment are neither prompt nor of the most desirable kind, impressing property for the public use has been found indispensable. We have no fears of Complaint under your exercise of those powers & have only to ask the favor of you to instruct those employed in impressing to furnish the party whose property is taken with a proper Certificate of the Article & value and that they make regular returns to Government of the Certificates they have given stating in such return the Date of the Certificate, owners name, article taken and price. This has been required of Course from all impressing Officers as a Check on Counterfeited Certificates.

The conduct of Capt. Turberville has come to the Knowledge of the Executive in detached Parts only. His permitting L<sup>t</sup> Hare to pass his post to Westover was deemed by us improper. We understood also that he did not obey a positive Order from Major General Baron Steuben for discharging M<sup>r</sup> Hare & the flag; and the Baron complained to us that an open Letter of his to M<sup>r</sup> Hare was detained

by Captain Turberville. We could do no less than observe to the Baron that the military institutions had put into his Hands the Powers of vindicating the military authority. An Enquiry or Trial before a military Court is certainly proper: but Capt<sup>n</sup> Turberville cannot & I dare say will not expect or desire it but when full evidence can be obtained. If it be necessary that it should await the papers which were transmitted me, they are now in the Hands of the Attorney General to support a civil prosecution and cannot probably be for many Days withdrawn. Capt<sup>n</sup> Turberville is an essential Witness in this prosecution which is to be heard on the 23<sup>d</sup> inst and [I] will then have the means of knowing when the papers can be spared.

As a complete Collection of our militia & other Laws is very difficult to be procured and would be troublesome for you to consult I have ordered the militia Laws to be copied together & will transmit them to you in a few Days.

Captain Turberville's Connection with Mr Hare's flag gives me occasion to mention that matter to you. On my hearing (several Days after it happened) that such an Officer and vessel had come up James river, I took the liberty of mentioning it in a Letter to Major General Baron Steuben, of asking the favor of his attention to it & informing that as it was more immediately within the military Line was under rules and usages with which he was much better acquainted than we were, we wished to leave it to him altogether to have done whatever was right. It was his Opinion & it was & is ours that notwithstanding the Indecencies & Irregularities of Mr Hares Conduct he and his vessel should have been discharged. He accordingly ordered it: but his order was not obeyed as to M<sup>r</sup> Hare's person till so much time had elapsed as to render the discharge dangerous, it was therefore countermanded. As to the vessel, an Idea arose I know not on what grounds that she was drawn into litigation before a Court of justice. This I am now informed is not the Case. As we have never meddled with her we wish not to do it; but to leave with yourself to discharge both Officer & flag whenever you will think it proper to do so. In the mean Time I doubt not you will think proper attention should be paid to the safe Custody of the vessel the persons and property belonging to her & that she be kept under the military Power & clear of the civil.

I send you subjoined a state of the militia called to the South side of James river. If I understood Baron Steuben's plan he wished to have 800 Virginia Militia to operate on the Norfolk Side with the Carolinians and 2260 on the Portsmouth side to operate with the regulars making in the whole 3060 militia. In our first Call expecting deficiencies we much exceeded these numbers taking into the Account the Militia then in the field under General Muhlenburg, but finding these deficiencies greater than could have been expected we afterwards considerably augmented our Calls.

I also state the armed vessels now at Hoods under the Direction of Captains Mitchell & Lewis, subject to your Order. They are private property. Those of the Public in Chickahominy want men to supply which Orders have been sent to Captain Maxwell.

|                                |                             |                   |     |                            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| Loudoun.....                   | 436                         | Southampton...    | 219 |                            |
| Fauquier.....                  | 269                         | Isle of Wight.... | 150 |                            |
| Prince William...              | 185                         | Nansemond.....    | 161 |                            |
|                                |                             | —                 |     | 2190 Originally called for |
| Fairfax.....                   | 200                         | Chesterfield....  | 164 |                            |
| New Kent.....                  | 104                         | Dinwiddie.....    | 187 |                            |
| Charles City....               | 71                          | Hanover.....      | 245 |                            |
| Prince George...               | 125                         | Caroline.....     | 260 |                            |
| Surry.....                     | 95                          | Spotsylvania....  | 120 |                            |
| Sussex.....                    | 175                         | King William...   | 55  |                            |
|                                |                             | —                 |     | 1031 Supplementary         |
|                                |                             |                   |     | 3221                       |
| Ship Renown.....               | 16....4 & 6 lb <sup>s</sup> |                   |     | } Hood's                   |
| Brigg Wilkes.....              | 12....4....lb <sup>s</sup>  |                   |     |                            |
| Brigg Mars.....                | 8....4....lb <sup>s</sup>   |                   |     |                            |
| Brigg Willing lass.....        | 10....4....lb <sup>s</sup>  |                   |     | } Chickahominy             |
| Ship Tempest 16 Guns.....      |                             |                   |     |                            |
| Brigg Jefferson 14 4 lbs.....  |                             |                   |     |                            |
| Lewis.... } Small Gallies..... |                             |                   |     |                            |
| Safeguard }                    |                             |                   |     |                            |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES, RICHARD HENRY LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 193.*)

To the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

In Council March 19<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Not doubting but the General Assembly will be glad to be informed of the Occurrences in the Carolina's I take the liberty of transmitting to them a Letter I have received from General Greene and some extracts from Letters received from Major M<sup>c</sup>Gill who is with the Southern Army.

P. S. I must take the liberty of begging a return of Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene's Letter when communicated to both Houses.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 193.*)

His Excellency the President of Congress.

Richmond, March 19, 1781.

Sir

I have the Honor of inclosing to your Excellency a Copy of a Letter from General Greene with some other intelligence received



not doubting your anxiety to know the movements in the South. I find we have deceived ourselves not a little by counting on the whole numbers of Militia which have been in motion, as if they had all remained with General Greene, when in fact they seem only to have visited & quitted him.

The Marquis Fayette arrived at York on the 15<sup>th</sup>. His Troops still remained at the Head of the Bay till the appearance of some force which should render their Passage down safe.<sup>292</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 193.*)

Mr David Ross

In Council March 20<sup>th</sup> 1781

*Sir,*

The Superintendence of the lead mines having been formerly in the Board of Trade devolves of course on yourself as succeeding to their Duties.

I mention this matter now particularly because our Stock of Lead being very low & the Demand great we wished the mines to be worked to their greatest extent. I must therefore beg the favor of you to endeavour to engage as many Hands immediately as may be employed to advantage in order to push this most essential Work.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COMMODORE JAMES BARRON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 194.*)

Commodore Barron

In Council March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir,*

Not having heard from Cap<sup>tn</sup> Maxwell for a considerable Time we are become apprehensive he may have been taken by the Enemy in the execution of a Business put into his charge by the Executive. The Bearer goes express to find him if within the State, but if taken then to proceed with this to you. In this event I must desire your attendance at the Ship yard to have the public armed vessels fit for Service immediately, equipt manned either by impressing or by Enlistment general or special, and joined to the private armed vessels in James River taken into public Service: the whole to be subject to the Orders of the Continental Commanding Officer; and as there is reason to apprehend the enemy intend should any opportunity offer to destroy the vessels & Stores which shall be remaining at the yard, I am to desire you will immediately withdraw the Thetis and other public vessels from thence & such Stores as are valuable up James River to some safe & proper place. Both these Businesses should be executed with the greatest Dispatch. I shall be glad to be informed from time to time of the progress made in them.

<sup>292</sup>The letter was also sent to General Washington.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN JAMES MAXWELL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 194.)*

Captain Maxwell

In Council March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1781*Sir,*

Not having heard from you for a considerable Time nor knowing where you are, and the matters under your Care at the Ship yard requiring your Presence extremely the Bearer is sent Express to find you with this Letter. It being necessary that the public armed vessels at the Shipyard fit for Service should be immediately manned, I must desire you to repair these and have them manned by impress or by enlistment either general or special, equipped for immediate service and joined to the private vessels taken into public Service under the Care of Capt<sup>ns</sup> Mitchell & Lewis and subjected to the orders of the Continental Commander. It seems proper that Commodore Baron should take Charge of the whole vessels, you will therefore be pleased to send on the Bearer to him with your requisition to attend. And as there is reason to apprehend the enemy intend should any opportunity Offer to destroy the vessels & Stores which shall be remaining at the Shipyard I am to desire you will immediately withdraw the Thetis & other public vessels from thence and such Stores as are valuable up James River to some safe and proper place. Both these Businesses should be executed with the greatest dispatch. I shall be glad to be informed from time to time of the progress made in them.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. FRANCIS PEYTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 195.)*

Mr Francis Peyton Clothier

In Council March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781*Sir,*

I inclose to you an advice of Council on the subject of the Clothier's and Sub Clothier's Duty. Col<sup>o</sup> Davies having been so kind as to consider the Subject and furnish us with a Plan and Observations on the minuter parts of the business I beg leave to recommend them to your Consideration, as they will furnish you with very useful Ideas on the Details of your office.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BROWN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 195.)*

Mr John Brown

In Council March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.*Sir,*

It is represented to the Board that the inhabitants of Chesterfield have been very peculiarly distressed by Impresses of Provision made in the ordinary Proportion by your Agents while they have

in a great measure have [had] the additional burthen of supporting the post at their Courthouse.

You will be pleased to attend to this and see that the burthen of furnishing provisions to be laid as equally as possible on all the Counties taking into Consideration as well these Calls which are peculiar on the County as those which are common to all.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 195.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Davies

Sir,

In Council March 21<sup>st</sup> 1781

I take the liberty of inclosing to you an Information given in to me by Col<sup>o</sup> Buford against Epaphroditus Rudder<sup>293</sup> a Cornet in Baylors Horse. His being now in your neighbourhood induces me to address it to you particularly and to desire you will institute proper proceedings to call him to Account. I also beg the favor of you to inform me if you know what became of the men described in the inclosed resolution of Assembly. They were forwarded here one day but I know not what was done with them afterwards.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. THOMAS FLETCHER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 196.*)

Mr Thomas Fletcher

Sir,

In Council March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

The Executive cannot agree to your return to reside within the State unless you Consider yourself freed from your Parole. You informed me that the British Commanding Officer expressed his Determination to hang any Person who should be found in Arms after having given a parole. If the validity of these paroles were without question under the Law of nations, still that law only punishes a breach of Parole by strict Confinement and does not authorize the inflicting death. Such an infliction therefore will be considered as putting prisoners to Death in cold Blood, which we are determined to retaliate by the immediate execution of an equal number of Prisoners British in our Hands. For the sake of Humanity I wish the British Commanding Officer to be informed that this is our Determination.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, GENERAL WASHINGTON, & GOVERNOR LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 196.*)

Sir

Richmond March 21<sup>st</sup> 1781.

The enclosed Letter will inform you of the Arrival of a British Fleet in Chesapeake Bay. The extreme negligence of our stationed

<sup>293</sup>Epaphroditus Rudder, 2d lieutenant 1st Virginia State regiment, June, 1777; 1st lieutenant, April 1778 to October 1779; lieutenant 1st Continental Dragoons, 1780; retired 9th November, 1782.

expresses is no Doubt the Cause why as yet no authentic account has reached us of a general action which happened on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> about a mile & a half from Guilford Court House between General Greene and Lord Cornwallis. Cap<sup>t</sup> Singleton<sup>294</sup> an intelligent Officer of Harrison's Artillery who was in the Action is this moment arrived here and gives me the general Information that both Parties were prepared and desirous for action: the enemy supposed about 2,500 strong our Army about 4,000. that after a very warm and general engagement of about an Hour and a half we retreated about a mile and a half from the field in good Order. having as he supposes between two and three hundred killed and wounded, the enemy between five and seven hundred killed and wounded. That we lost four pieces of Artillery: that the militia as well as the regulars behaved exceedingly well. That General Greene he believes would have renewed the action the next Day had it not proved rainy, and he supposes would renew it as soon as possible: that the whole of his Troops militia and regulars were in high Spirits and wishing a second engagement, that the Loss has fallen pretty equally on the militia and regulars. That General Stevens received a ball through the Thigh. Major Anderson of Maryland & Cap<sup>n</sup> Barrett of Washington's Cavalry killed, Captain Fauntleroy of the same Cavalry shot through the Thigh and left in the Field. Captain Singleton having left Camp the Day after the battle does not speak from particular returns, none such having then been made.\*

I must inform your Excellency from him till more regular applications can reach you. That they are in extreme want of Lead, Cart-ridge Paper and Thread. I think it improper however it might urge an instantaneous Supply, to repeat to you his State of the extent of those Articles. In a former Letter I mentioned to you the failure of the vein of our lead mines which has left the Army here in a State of equal Distress & Danger.

P. S. Look out Boats have been ordered from the Eastern Shore to apprise the French fleet of the arrival of this Fleet in Chesapeake.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO FRENCH NAVAL COMMANDER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 197.*)

To the Officer commanding the Naval Force of his most Christian Majesty bound to Chesapeake.

Richmond March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

The inclosed Letter will inform you of the Arrival of a British fleet<sup>294a</sup> in Chesapeake Bay. Lest you should be unapprized of it I have thought it necessary to order two Lookout Boats from the

<sup>294</sup>Captain Anthony Singleton; served through the war; died in 1795.

\*This far to General Washington and Governor Lee.

<sup>294a</sup>With this fleet the French fleet, under Destouches, had, unknown to Jefferson, already had an engagement on the 16th of March. Though the French had had slightly the advantage, they allowed the British without pursuit to enter the Chesapeake Bay.



Eastern Shore of this State to fall in with you and deliver you this notice on which it will be in your power to take such measures as the actual Strength and Circumstances of your fleet shall render necessary.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. AVERY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 197.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Avery

Richmond March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

The arrival of a powerful British fleet in Chesapeake Bay renders me extremely apprehensive that a French fleet expected here not apprized of this Circumstance may run into the mouths of the Enemy. I must therefore beg of you to procure immediately two good Boats to go out & keep a constant Lookout for the French fleet and to deliver to the Commanding Officer should they meet with him the inclosed Letter communicating to him the State of Things in the Bay. This I think should be continued to the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> of April, the expences of which shall be paid by Government.

The Importance of this Caution, and the dreadful Change which would be produced in the aspect of the War by the Capture of a whole fleet & Army will I hope add to that promptness with which you have ever aided the public Operations. You will no doubt caution the masters of the vessels to destroy the Letters in Case of inevitable Capture.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 198.*)

General Weedon

Richmond March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

As I am certainly informed by Commodore Baron that the Fleet arrived is British, I become anxious lest the expected French fleet not knowing of this Incident may come into the Bay. Should y<sup>e</sup> Marquis Fayette be returned to the North side of the river, I make no Doubt but he will have taken what cautionary measures are in his power and necessary. Should he not be returned I must beg the favor of you immediately to send off a vessel from York to the Eastern Shore (which is supposed to be practicable) with the inclosed Letter to Col<sup>o</sup> Avery the purport of which is to send out two good lookout boats from the Seaside of that Shore to apprise the French Commander should he be approaching of the Situation of Things here. You will of Course caution the master of the vessel to destroy the Letters confided to him in Case of inevitable Capture.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO OFFICER IN COMMAND OF CHARLES CITY MILITIA.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 198.*)

Commanding Officer of Charles City Militia

Richmond March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Certain information of the arrival of an Enemy's Fleet in the Bay renders it necessary that we take immediate measures for withdrawing the vessels, Stores and Public Property from the Shipyard. This cannot be done without assistance. I must therefore desire you instantly on receipt of this to send fifty militia there to assist under the directions of Captain Maxwell in that most important work. This Service shall be considered in our Calls on your County for militia.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. DAVIES.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 201.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Davies

Richmond March 22<sup>d</sup> 1781.<sup>294b</sup>

Sir,

Col<sup>o</sup> Muter having resigned his appointment as Commissioner of the war office, the board have appointed you to succeed him which I have now the pleasure to notify to you. I shall be exceedingly happy should it be agreeable to you to undertake the Office, and if applications to the Commanding Officer or other Person shall be necessary to reconcile your acting in this Office to the reservation of any other Interests you would wish to retain, I shall readily add my solicitations to yours. In the mean Time I hope it will be in your power to come immediately to the Office, as it's Duties are such as to admit of no Intermission and impossible to be executed by the Executive in addition to their other Duties. The Bearer brings this express and by him I shall hope your answer.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, RICHARD HENRY LEE.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 199.*)

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

In Council March 22<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I do myself the Honor of inclosing you a Letter I received yesterday evening informing me of the Arrival of a British Fleet of force in Chesapeake Bay. Should this be confirmed beyond all doubt, I shall think it proper to discharge the armed vessels of private property which had been impressed into Public Service. In the mean

<sup>294b</sup>The date of this letter is correctly given in the letter book as the 22nd of March, but it was copied into the book after several of those dated March 23. This is an example of an erroneous order of copying occasionally met with.

Time they are coming up to a safer part of the river and a valuation of them is making, so that if any future events should be thought to make the State liable for them, their work may be precisely established.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
CULPEPER COUNTY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 199.*)

County Lieutenant of Culpeper

In Council March 22<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

It being necessary that the militia in Service below should be relieved you will be pleased to send 351 of your militia under proper Officers to Williamsburg. I am informed a portion of your militia are already in motion under a Call from General Weedon. Necessity obliged the Executive on the first of Arnold's Invasion & before his Object was fixed to entrust a General Officer with Authority to call for militia; however, as it produces some confusion in the rotation of Duty which we wish to make as equal as we can on all the Counties.

these<sup>295</sup> Calls in the interior parts of the Country especially will go hereafter from the Executive except where Circumstances require an application from one County Lieutenant to another as provided in the Invasion Law.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS  
OF BUCKINGHAM AND AMHERST.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 199.*)

County Lieutenants of Buckingham & Amherst.

In Council March 22<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Board approve of your having complied with the Call for militia on the Invasion of our Country, tho', that Call did not proceed immediately from the Executive.

Necessity obliged us on the first of Arnold's (&c as in the Letter to the County Lieutenant of Culpeper)

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 200.*)

General Nelson

In Council March 22<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

An order and Account of which the inclosed is a Copy being presented to the Board and no advice thereof previously received

<sup>295</sup>This letter is evidently badly copied into the letter book. Several words were omitted after the word "Counties." The sense, however, is not obscure.

from you they ask the favour of you to inform them of the particular Occasion which rendered the order necessary and (as far as you are able) to what uses the Horses were applied.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MRS. LACHLAN M<sup>c</sup>INTOSH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 200.*)

M<sup>rs</sup> McIntosh <sup>296</sup>

Richmond Virginia March 23<sup>d</sup>, 1781.

*Madam*

I do myself the pleasure of communicating to you a resolution of the General Assembly of this State which was formed in Consequence of an application and Information from the Officers of the Virginia Line in Captivity in Charlestown. The Executive have ordered ten thousand Pounds of our present money to be paid into the Hands of Col<sup>o</sup> Russel for your use.

They will be happy in being the further Instruments for administering to your relief according to the wish of the General Assembly, and the poor abilities of the State and therefore beg the favour of you to communicate to them any Circumstances of your present Situation which you may think proper to confide to them and which may be a ground work for their future a Discharge of this agreeable Duty.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL CALVERT.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 200.*)

Colo Calvert

In Council March 23<sup>d</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

I transmitted your Letter with the one inclosed from Capt Hardy to the Attorney General for his advice and received the inclosed answer. You will be pleased to supply, by fuller information if in your power, the Circumstances which you may judge of Importance to be communicated to the Attorney whose opinion upon such fuller state, I will obtain & transmit to you for your Guidance.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE ELLIOTT.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 201.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> George Elliotte

In Council March 23<sup>d</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

The Board wish to have all the Horses impressed for the Portsmouth Service valued by the same set of Gentlemen that all may be rated on the same scale. They therefore desire that Col<sup>o</sup> Griffin and the other Gentlemen before appointed be applied to, to go to Hog-island, when the 20 odd Horses get there and value them. You

<sup>296</sup>The wife of General Lachlan McIntosh—brigadier general in the Continental Army, captured at Charleston. Mrs. McIntosh was at that time at Hillsborough, with her children, in great want.



will therefore have them detained there till valued by those Gentlemen.

Mr. Brown was instructed to authorize his Agents in the several Counties to receive the County waggons and to deliver over to the Continental Quartermaster.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN EDWARD TRAVIS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 201.*)

Capt<sup>n</sup> Travis<sup>297</sup>

Richmond March 23<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

I have received your favor of the 17th inst. and am sorry there should be so much reason of Complaint both on the part of the Officers & men of the navy. I have not had it in my power to see the paymaster of the navy but I am pretty certainly informed that he has laid out the greatest part of the money he received in the purchase of Cloathing which is now in considerable forwardness making up. Orders shall be given for the issuing it as soon as ready, and an enquiry as to any balance unapplied in that way. The emission of a further sum of money voted by the Assembly will put it in our power to pay off the navy which shall be done as soon as the money can be prepared. Your Letter did not come to Hand till the moment of the rising of Assembly, so that it was not in my power to lay it before them. They meet again in six weeks when I think an application for redress from the Officers would be favorably received. Any Assistance which the poverty of the Treasury will enable us to yield to the Officers or men of the navy will be cheerfully done by us.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE GOVERNOR OF HISPANIOLA.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 202.*)

His Excellency the Governor of Hispaniola

Richmond Virginia March 24<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

M<sup>r</sup> David Ross Commercial Agent for this State who as such is entrusted with the Exportation of Commodities on the public Account, and Importation of necessaries for the Army, dispatches a vessel for the Island over which your Excellency presides. The extreme distress of this State for Arms and military Stores, and the union of Object of his Most Christian Majesty and the North American States in the present war against Great Britain, embolden me to ask your Excellency's permission to the Agent of M<sup>r</sup> Ross to purchase either from private or public Stores within your Government and to export such Arms and military Stores as the proceeds of his Cargo may enable him to purchase. Not knowing whether the Regulations of your Government may admit this without your permission, I have taken the liberty of troubling your Excellency with this Application.

<sup>297</sup>Captain Edward Travis, of the Virginia navy.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. LAFAYETTE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 202.)*

Marquis La Fayette

In Council March 24<sup>th</sup> 1781.*Sir,*

I am honoured with your Letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> and am sorry that a want of Ammunition should have abridged your intentions at Portsmouth. I have made enquiry what have been the Issues of ammunition from the State Stores and am informed by returns that there has issued (naming principal Articles only)

To Thomas Smith acting for Major Pryor 1,000 lbs Cannon powder for York.

To Cap<sup>t</sup><sup>n</sup> Bohannon 6,000 lbs Cannon Powder

To Major Pryor for Gen<sup>l</sup> Muhlenburg's camp 400 lbs musket powder 2100 lbs Lead.

To Cap<sup>t</sup><sup>n</sup> Irish for the Continental Laboratory 3500 lbs musket powder and 3900 lbs Lead.—

Amounting to 10,900 lbs powder & 6000 lbs of Lead.

These things being put into the Hands of Continental Officers, whether made up, forwarded or not are circumstances not afterwards coming to my knowledge. I asked the favor of Cap<sup>t</sup><sup>n</sup> Irish to inform me of his issues from the Continental Laboratory to which we sent 19 Hands to aid him in preparing the Ammunition. He made the inclosed return. I apprehend a considerable Part of what he has issued is still on the road. He has 18,000 Cartridges on Hand and makes 3000 a Day. I am very sorry to inform you our Stock of Lead will not employ him much longer even at this slow rate.

The vein of the mine on which we have hitherto depended failed some weeks ago, of this I immediately apprized Congress. Unless some speedy Supplies are sent on the Southern army as well as ours will immediately fail. I have lately again written to Congress on this Subject and by Captain Rutlege ventured to send a particular State of the Southern Army in this point as reported to me by Cap<sup>t</sup> Singleton, the addition of your application would doubtless have great weight. It has not been generally expected that individual States should provide more ammunition on their own Accounts than to repel occasional Attacks or to oppose a permanent enemy until Supplies and Support could be forwarded from the Continental Stock. Our State Stores have however been constantly applying to the use of the Southern Army from the taking of Charlestown to this Time and of our own Army from the first of October last. I mention these Things not with an Idea of withholding as long as we have a grain, but to enable to shew that Aids of military Stores from the Continental stock are as reasonable as they are necessary.

As to provisions I have been incessant with the Commissary to see that the quantity before ordered be in readiness. He has constantly assured me that he has much more than has been required.

Were the Articles such as are lodged in Storehouses I would send an Officer to examine his stores actually, but they consist mostly of stalled Beeves divided among the counties which it would be improper to bring together till wanted. He has a vessel under the Care of the armed vessels in this River loaded with Flour which he says contains half the quantity required and the whole may be water borne the moment it is wanted. He has no hard bread, but he is instructed to provide it. I shall not cease to recall his Attention to this Subject.

I am anxious to hear from you since the appearance of this British fleet, it is said by a Capt<sup>a</sup> Reeves who came out of Portsmouth since their arrival that there was a partial engagement between that & the French fleet off our Capes in which neither party sustained the loss of any vessel or other considerable damage, Immediately on my learning their arrival I communicated it by the stationed expresses to Governor Lee, the President of Congress & General Washington. I suppose this will put an end to the Design of Portsmouth or place it at a Distance; in either Case the militia who have had a Tour of Duty so unusually long are entitled to be discharged by a special promise so soon as those newly called on shall rendezvous in sufficient numbers to replace them. Great Cautions are requisite on the discharge of militia to prevent their carrying away their Arms and Ammunition. Another Reason induces me to wish an Information of your present views, which is that if there be a probability that the private armed vessels we have impressed may not be wanting I should be glad to discharge them as they are heavy daily Expence, and risk.

I do myself the pleasure of transmitting you the militia Laws according to your Desire.

I will beg the favor to send the inclosed Letter to the British Commanding Officer at Portsmouth by Flag whenever you shall think proper. Indeed I wish it might suffice to deliver it to the Naval Commander, as nothing can be so disagreeable to me as to be compelled to a Correspondence with the other.<sup>298</sup> If it be your opinion that this would equally well answer the Purpose of the Letter I would then ask the Favor of you to send it to the naval Commander

On the resignation of Col<sup>o</sup> Muter as Commissioner of the War Office we have appointed Col<sup>o</sup> Davies to succeed him. The due execution of the duties of this Office are of extreme Importance to the State and indeed to the Continent while an army continues either here or in the South. Some Difficulties on the Subject of rank and other emoluments prevent his absolute Acceptance. He has however accepted conditionally and we are applying to Congress to settle the points on which [he] hesitates. In the mean time as the Duties of the office do not admit a Days Intermission in the present Situation of Things, give me Leave to solicit his excuse for quitting his Charge at Chesterfield Courthouse without awaiting a regular Licence & your permission to him to continue here 'till we receive the Determination of Congress.

<sup>298</sup>Benedict Arnold, to be relieved, however, very shortly, by General Phillips. Phillips arrived and took command on the 26th. It is almost certain, accordingly, that the letter referred to by Jefferson was, in fact, delivered to him and not to Arnold.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT  
PORTSMOUTH.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 205.)*

To the Commanding Officer of the British force at Portsmouth.

In Council March 24<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir*

Some of the Citizens of this State taken prisoners when not in Arms and enlarged on parole have reported the Commanding Officer as affirming to them that they should be punished with death if found in Arms. This has given Occasion to the inclosed resolution of the General Assembly of this State. It suffices to observe at present that by the law of nations, a breach of parole (even where the validity of parole is unquestioned) can only be punished by stricter confinement.

No Usage has permitted the putting to Death a prisoner for this Cause. I would willingly suppose that no British Officer had ever expressed a contrary Purpose. It has however become my Duty to declare that should such a Threat be carried into Execution it will be deemed as putting Prisoners to Death in cold blood, and shall be followed by the Execution of so many British Prisoners in our possession. I trust however that this horrid necessity will not be introduced by you and that you will on the contrary concur with us in endeavouring as far as possible to alleviate the inevitable miseries of war by treating Captives as Humanity and natural honour requires. The event of this Contest will hardly be affected by the fate of a few miserable Captives in war.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GOV. NASH.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 205.)*

His Excellency Governor Nash

Richmond March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1781

*Sir,*

The Situation of affairs in our Eastern and southern quarters rendering peace on our Western frontier extremely desirable, The General Assembly of this State by a resolution which I do myself the Honor of inclosing to your Excellency, have recommended a Conciliation with the Cherokees in a particular manner. Not knowing what is the present situation of the war with that nation I have given Authority to Col<sup>o</sup> Preston & Christian and Major Martin to concur with any Commissioners whom your Excellency may think proper to authorize to treat on the subject of peace whenever a proper Occasion shall offer. I cannot doubt your Concurrence in Opinion that it is our policy to discontinue the diversion of our Western militia from their attention to the Southern War. Should you be pleased to make such an appointment on your part your Commissioners will be enabled immediately to open a Correspondence with ours, so as to agree on Circumstances Times & Places. The resolution seems to suppose some Ground of Complaint to exist with the Cherokees



as to their Boundary. As none such of late Date have come to my Knowledge I could only assure the Commissioners that every just Cause of Complaint on that Subject should be removed by us so far as this State is concerned in it.

Better Information will perhaps enable you to be more precise in your instructions to your Commissioners.

I had the Honor of your Excellency's Letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant from Granville County. I have given orders to our Commissary to instruct his Agents in Mecklenburg & Halifax Counties to pursue the plan your Excellency has begun and to avail himself in the fullest manner of the resource which the River and Seasons afford us. He will send out salt for the purpose of curing what fish can be taken there. He apprehends considerable Difficulty in the Article of Barrels.

You will no doubt before this reaches you hear of the Arrival of 12 British ships in our Bay under Graves and Arbuthnot. Seven of them are of the Line, two 50<sup>s</sup>, the others smaller. They are said to have fallen in with the French Fleet destined for the same Place just off the Capes and to have had a partial Engagement in which neither suffered the Loss of a Ship or other material Injury. I apprehend our Plans against Arnold will fall to the Ground.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. PRESTON, COL. CHRISTIAN AND  
MAJOR MARTIN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 214.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Preston, Col<sup>o</sup> Christian & Major Martin.

In Council March 24<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Gentlemen,*

In Execution of the within resolution of Assembly you are hereby authorized whenever a proper Occasion shall present itself to meet with Commissioners from the State of North Carolina to treat with the Cherokee Indians on the Subject of Peace. I have taken the liberty of recommending to his Excellency the Governor of North Carolina to make an Appointment of such Commissioners on his part & have notified to him your authority that his Commissioners may be enabled to open a Correspondence with you on the Subject. Our present Situation to the Southward and Eastward renders peace on our Western Frontier very desirable.

The Resolution seems to suppose some Grounds of Complaint on the part of the Cherokees, as to their Boundary. As none such of late Date have come to my Knolege, I can only repeat to you the Assurances of the Legislature, that every just Complaint on that Subject shall be removed. You will be pleased to report to me any proceedings you may have on this Subject. As Sickness or Accident may prevent the Concurrence of the whole, Any two of you are hereby authorized to execute this Business.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JOHN WHITE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 206.)*Col<sup>o</sup> White <sup>299</sup>In Council March 24<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Information was sent to me by Col<sup>o</sup> Buford of some malversations by Epaphroditus Rudder a Cornet in your Regiment as to a Horse of public Property which called for public notice. As he was said to be at that time at Manchester, I communicated it to Col<sup>o</sup> Davies and desired him to institute proper Proceedings to bring him to Justice. Since this I learn that you are in this neighbourhood. I therefore beg Leave to apprise you of the matter and to hope that you will lend your Aid in seeing that a proper Enquiry be made into the subject complained of.

By a resolution of Assembly of March 7<sup>th</sup> the Impresses of Horses of the value of above 50 pounds Specie were desired to be stopped, and those already impressed were directed to be returned to their Owners. This sume we estimate at five thousand Pounds paper. As we are told that there are Persons now engaged in different Parts of the Country in impressing Horses for the 1st & 3d Regiments of Cavalry I must beg the favor of your Interference and that you will be so obliging as to give them Orders to impress no more of higher value than £5,000 Paper money & to return to their Owners all of a higher Price which they have already impressed, taking Care to recall the Certificates they may have given.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GREENE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 207.)*

General Greene

In Council March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

I do myself the Honour of inclosing to you some resolutions of Genl Assembly on the Subject of the Horses procured & to be procured for the 1st & 3d Regiments of Cavalry, in the execution of which I shall need your Assistance.

Representations were made of the Conduct of the Persons who were or pretended to be entrusted with the Execution of the Impress-Warrants which I had inclosed to you very unfavorably [unfavorable] to them. They are said to have transgressed extremely not only by exceeding the Tract of Country to which the warrants were restrained, but in the Kind of Horses on which they seized. This produced the resolutions of March 7<sup>th</sup> the first of which is no Doubt become unnecessary as I suppose the Departure of the Enemy from this State, and their present Tendency renders nugatory warrants which were restrained to the neighbourhood and probable route of the Enemy. I should otherwise ask the favor of you to give your Orders for the

<sup>299</sup> Probably Colonel Anthony Walton White, of the First Continental Dragoons.

Discontinuance of Impresses under those warrants altogether. The second Resolution of the same Date obliges me to trouble you with ordering the several Persons who have been employed in these Impresses to make a report of their Proceedings therein which may be done by Way of Calendar under these Heads to wit 1<sup>st</sup>. The species of Horse impressed that is whether a Stone Horse, Gelding or brood mare. 2<sup>d</sup> a Description by the size, Age and General Appearance, which Latter Circumstance I would only wish to have designated by such short Terms as those "fine," "indifferent" &c. &c. 3<sup>d</sup> The Sum at which estimated. 4<sup>th</sup> Whose Property. 5 In what County Impressed. 6<sup>th</sup> By whom impressed, 7<sup>th</sup>, to what Purpose applied. This I apprehend will answer most of the Purposes which the General Assembly had in view. Should there have been any other Circumstances in the Conduct of these Gentlemen which would become proper subjects of Enquiry, they can only be gathered from those who would be interested in producing them. On view of such a report yourself also will be enabled to judge which particular Horses according to the same resolution, must be returned to their Owners.

Before it will be in our power to proceed in the Execution of the resolution of March 17th, I must give you the Trouble of procuring me Information what number of Horses will be wanting to fill up the two regiments after withdrawing such of the impressed Horses as are by the resolution before mentioned to be returned. It would be the wish of the Executive to appropriate a certain portion of the money for the purchase of these & that this should be laid out by persons of your own appointment if it would be agreeable to you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CLAIBORNE AND  
MR. GRANVILLE SMITH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 208.*)

Major Claiborne & Granville Smith

In Council March 24th, 1781

Sir,

In Compliance with a resolution of the General Assembly of March 16th I must beg the favor of you as soon as the Impress warrants to which the resolution refers shall have been fully executed to procure from the several persons who have been employed in the Execution of them a report of their Proceedings therein which may be done by way of Calendar under these Heads, to wit 1st, The Species of Horse impressed that is whether a Stone Horse gelding or Brood mare— 2d a description by the Size, Age, & general appearance which latter Circumstance I would only wish to have designated by such short Terms as these 'fine' 'Indifferent' &c. 3d. The Sum at which they were first valued. 4th. The sum at which they were revalued. 5th. Whose Property. 6th. In what County Impressed. 7th. By whom Impressed. 8th. To whom delivered. Should any other Circumstances in the Course of these Impresses come to your knowledge which might be deemed reprehensible, you will be so good as to communicate them to me.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
HENRY HUNTINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 209.*)

President of Congress

In Council, Richmond; March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir,*

The Appointment of Commissioner to the War Office of this State, having lately become vacant, the Executive are desirous to place Colonel William Davies of the Virginia Continentals, in that Office. This gentleman, however, declines undertaking it, unless his rank in the Army, half-pay for Life, Land and Allowance for Depreciation of pay can be reserved to him; observing with justice, that these Emoluments, distant as they are, are important to a Person who has spent the most valuable part of his youth in the Service of his Country. As this indulgence rests in the power of Congress alone, I am induced to request it of them on behalf of the State, to whom it is very interesting that the Office be properly filled, and I may say, on behalf of the Continent also, to whom the same Circumstance is interesting, in proportion to its reliance upon this State for Supplies to the Southern War. We should not have given Congress the trouble of this Application, had we found it easy to call any other to the Office, who was likely to answer our wishes in the Exercise of it.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN  
CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 209.*)

The Honble Virginia Delegates in Congress.

In Council, Richmond. March 26<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Gentlemen,*

I beg Leave to ask your solicitations with Congress for Permission to Col<sup>o</sup> William Davies of the Virginia line to accept an Appointment to the War Office of this State without prejudice to his rank and right to half-pay for life, Lands, and Depreciation of pay. I am in Hopes it will be the more easily obtained as by the Discontinuance of appointing full Colonels in the Army, Officers of that rank seem not to be deemed essential. We are told too that instances of similar Indulgence do exist: particularly, that his Excellency Governor Clinton of New York retains his rank of Brigadier General, And the honble Mr M<sup>c</sup>Dowall a Delegate in Congress that of Major General in the Continental Army. A speedy answer to our Application is much desired.

P. S. I will be much obliged to you for the Pennsylvania Act either of Assembly or of the Executive for taking off the Embargo on flour & by the first Conveyance.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 210.*)

Sir,

In Council March 26<sup>th</sup> 1781.

I inclose you by express three acts of the last session of Assembly for ascertaining the number of militia in the State exempting artificers employed at Iron works from militia Duty and remedying the Inconveniences arising from the Interruption of the Draught and the procuring Clothes Provisions & waggons for the Army.

On the Approach of Lord Cornwallis to this State and a representation of the Want of Horses to mount our Dragoons two Warrants were inclosed to General Greene for impressing dragoon Horses. The Persons to whom these warrants have been entrusted having taken as was said Horses of much greater value than have been allowed for that Service, the General Assembly directed that no further Impresses under them should be made of Horses of more than of the value of £50 Specie and that those of a higher Price already Impressed should be returned to their Owners. We have taken such measures as were in our power to carry this Resolution into Effect, but as the Impresses passing continually from Place to Place may not be notified of the Resolutions of Government I must beg the favor of your to take measures for making them known to any such who may be in your County and for effecting their execution. It is probable that most of the valuations have been made in paper money. From another Resolution of Assembly we are led to fix on £5000 paper as the value above which no such Horse shall be impressed or retained.

We expect to send a vessel shortly with a flag from this Place to Charles Town with Tobacco to be disposed of for our Captive Officers and Soldiers there. Be so good as to give notice to the Friends of any of them within your County that any Articles which they may think proper to send for their Relief by that Conveyance shall have a free Passage if ready to be delivered here by the last of April, and not too much for the spare room of the Vessel.

The number of Deserters from the British army who have taken refuge in this State is now considerably and daily augmenting. These people notwithstanding their coming over to us being deemed in Law alien Enemies and as such not admissible to be Citizens are not within the scope of the militia and Invasion Laws, under which Citizens alone can be embodied. I thought it necessary to observe this to you lest any Error in this Point should creep into Practice by incorporating those persons in the militia of the State.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY JUSTICES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 211.*)

A Circular Letter to the eldest acting Justice in the Counties of

Sir,

In Council March 26<sup>th</sup> 1781.

M<sup>r</sup> John Brown who is principally entrusted with the execution of the provision law was some time ago instructed to appoint a Deputy

in each County, who among other articles of Duty should be directed to receive the Waggon to be furnished by his County under the Act of Assembly for supplying the Army with Clothes, Provisions and Waggons. He informs the Board that many of those appointments have been made and that he has a Person now going through the several Counties to complete the Business, but is not able to say who has undertaken it in your County, or whether any appointment be yet made. I am therefore to desire that you will be pleased to order the Waggon, Team, driver & Appendages expected from your County, to be delivered to such his Deputy within the County, if there be one appointed and if not then to

The same Deputy is by Authority given from the Executive to call for the Beeves to be furnished by your County at such Time as will be arranged between Mr Brown and his Deputies, for supplying in due order the armies with Provisions.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY JUSTICES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 211.*)

A Circular Letter to the eldest acting Justice in the Counties of

In Council March 26<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

Mr John Brown &c. (as in the preceding Lre to the word waggons) He has accordingly appointed to be his Deputy in your County to whom you will be pleased to order the Delivery of the waggon Team, Driver and Appendages to be furnished by you. The same Deputy is duly authorized to call for the Beeves to be furnished by your County, at such Time as will be arranged between Mr Brown and his Deputies for supplying in due order the Armies with provisions.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR TURBERVILLE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 212.*)

Major Turberville

In Council March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir,*

In order that you may know fully how far and in what instances the Executive thought the measures you took with respect to the flag, M<sup>r</sup> Hare and Major General Baron Steuben, improper, and what has passed from the Executive on that Subject, I inclose you extracts from two letters written the one to Baron Steuben, the other to Marquis la Fayette.

You will observe that the acts particularised, are 1<sup>st</sup>, the permitting M<sup>r</sup> Hare to pass your post, second the arresting the flag instead of remanding it for the Irregularities of M<sup>r</sup> Hares Conduct, third not obeying Baron Steubens orders to remand it, and fourth the detention of the Letter complained of by the Baron. I am free to acknowledge to you that we considered the two first Articles as

Errors of Judgment merely and which could have proceeded from no blameable motive. The two last were military offences which as you will perceive by the Letters we consigned over to the Military Institutions altogether.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 212.*)

David Ross Esqr.

Sir,

March 27th, 1781.

A Knolege that Congress do not possess money but occasionally induces us to think it best to desire our Delegates to be on the watch whenever they shall be sending money to the Southward to solicit the payment of the sum there for our use and draw on us for repayment. I doubt whether this may answer your purpose which is present but we are assured it would be vain to draw on Congress. I will write to the Delegates as above if you wish it. I inclose you a Letter to Col<sup>o</sup> Lynch. I wish it were possible for you to import immediatley a quantity of Lead, Powder and Cartridge Paper from the nearest Port. The passports for greater Security were ordered to be printed. The Printer says they are not yet ready, but gives reason to Hope for them tomorrow morning.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
BERKELEY FREDERICK AND HAMPSHIRE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 213.*)

To the County Lieutenants of Berkely, Frederic & Hampshire

Sir,

In Council March 27<sup>th</sup> 1781.

It being our Duty to see that such Proportion of Militia be called from your County either to the Westward or Eastward as is called from the other Counties & being uninformed how many of them marched to the Westward I am now to desire you will send

men (deducting therefrom the number actually marched to the Westward) together with proper officers to perform a Tour of Duty in relief of those from other Counties now below. These having been already three months in service. I must request that your men may march within a week after you receive this Letter along the most direct Road to Williamsburg, carying with them such good firearms and Accoutrements as they have or can procure. As the number called for is absolutely requisite you will be pleased to make up all Delinquencies by ordering other men and then to take effectual measures for sentencing those Delinquents to serve as regular Souldiers and sending them to relieve the men ordered in their room, noting particularly to the Commanding Officer who are to be relieved, and they shall therein be relieved.

Berkeley.....258  
Frederic.....267  
Hampshire.....242

P S. We particulary wish & expect from your County that all should bring Rifles who have or can procure them.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
ORANGE, STAFFORD, LOUISA, KING GEORGE, & ESSEX.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 213.)*

To the County Lieutenants of Orange, Stafford, Louisa, King George  
& Essex.

In Council March 27<sup>th</sup> 1781,

*Sir,*

You will be pleased to send of your militia under  
proper Officers to perform a Tour of Duty &c. (as in the preceding  
Letter to the Coty Lts. of Berkley &c.)

|                 |     |               |     |             |     |
|-----------------|-----|---------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| Orange.....     | 140 | Stafford..... | 113 | Louisa..... | 140 |
| King George.... | 114 | Essex.....    | 107 |             |     |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
SHENANDOAH.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 213.)*

To the County Lieutenant of Shenandoah.

In Council March 27th, 1781.

*Sir,*

On the invasion which took place in January I called on your  
County by Letter to you for militia. Having never received any  
answer or return from you and knowing that no men from your County  
have been in the Field, I must suppose that the Express to whom we  
intrusted the Letter has deceived us. You will be pleased now to send  
217 of your militia &c. (as in the preceding Letter to the Co<sup>t</sup> L<sup>s</sup> of  
Berkeley &c.)

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. CHARLES LYNCH.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 214.)*

Col<sup>o</sup> Lynch

In Council March 27th 1781.

*Sir,*

Mr Ross the Commercial Agent having succeeded to the Duties  
of the Board of Trade has of Course the superintendence of the Lead  
mines.

We have instructed him to employ a much larger number of  
Hands which will necessarily require an additional manager and he  
thinks he shall be able to engage one to act under you. The extreme  
want of Lead both to the Southward and here induce the Executive  
to be very anxious that the mines be worked to the greatest extent  
they will admit.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE  
TWO PER CENT TAX.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 214.*)

Circular, To the Commissioners of the Tax

In Council March 28<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Gentlemen,

The Law requiring that the Tobacco Notes received by you in Paiment of the two per Cent Tax under the Act of October 1780 for recruiting our quota of Continental Troops should be transmitted to the Executive, you will be pleased to transmit them accordingly so soon as they shall be received. The Tobacco being much and immediately wanted to provide Cloathing for the souldiers. Any deficiency of Bounty money due to the new recruits may be paid at the Treasury on Demand.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 215.*)

Marquis la Fayette

In Council March 28<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Colo Senf handed me a list of entrenching Tools & other necessities for the operations against Portsmouth. Notwithstanding present Appearances I shall have them procured. I apprehend we shall be obliged to have many of them made at Fredericksburg.

M<sup>r</sup> Walker delivered me your wish to have Seamen procured for manning the Armed vessels. I know of no method of effecting this but by draughting from the lower militia such men as are used to the water. Should this weaken the body of militia too much we can have them reinforced by other militia, but perhaps the Arrival of the Fleet and Transports of the enemy may have rendered our plans against Portsmouth desperate, in which Case Oe-conomy would require the immediate Discharge of the private vessels now retained at the public Expence, and risk. I shall discharge all of them except the three largest, and as to them await your opinion. Capt<sup>n</sup> Maxwell is at present and for some Time will be at the Shipyard on Chickahominy endeavouring to withdraw the vessels and Stores from that place into James River. He will there receive any Orders you may wish to have executed within the Naval Department. When he shall have effected the Business on which he is there engaged I will take Care to make known to you the Station he takes and that it be convenient to your Situation.

We are now calling for militia as stated below to relieve those who have had so very long a Tour. They will probably begin to come in within a fortnight & be all in within four Weeks. These of the Counties of Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, Fairfax, Spotsylvania, Caroline & Culpeper some of whom are already in & some coming under Calls issued some little Time ago are meant to be retained

and with those stated below to constitute the force of the ensuing two or three months. We are the more anxious to relieve the militia who have been so long in the field because during their Absence the Act for raising new levies is suspended in their Counties.

Captain Reids Troop of Horse is just arrived here from guarding the Saratoga Prisoners in which Business it has been employed for 18 Months past. They came under an order which was meant to carry them into immediate Service below, but Captain Reid reports them to me as totally unfit for Service, from Poverty sore Backs and broken Saddles. I therefore have thought it best to send them to Port Royal to refit as there is at that place a Plenty of Forage which cannot be brought forward for the use of either Army and they will be convenient to Fredericksburg where their Equipments may be effected.

I have the pleasure to inclose you a Letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> from General Greene.

|                 |     |                  |      |
|-----------------|-----|------------------|------|
| Hampshire.....  | 242 | Berkeley.....    | 258  |
| Shenandoah..... | 217 | Frederic.....    | 267  |
| Orange.....     | 140 | Stafford.....    | 113  |
| Louisa.....     | 140 | King George..... | 114  |
| Essex.....      | 107 |                  |      |
|                 |     |                  | 1598 |

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS & GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 216.)

The President of Congress and General Washington.

Sir,

Richmond March 28 1781

I forward to you under Cover with this Copies of Letters received from Major General Greene and Baron Steuben which will give you the latest State of the Situation of Things with us & in North Carolina. I observe a late Resolution of Congress for furnishing a number of Arms, to the Southern States; & I lately wrote you on the Subject of Ammunition and Cartridge Paper. How much this State the Enemy thus reinforced may think proper to possess themselves of must depend on their own moderation & Caution, 'till these Supplies arrive. We had hoped to have received by the French Squadron under Monsieur Tilly eleven hundred Stand of Arms which we had at Rhode Island but were disappointed. The necessity of hurrying forward the Troops intended for the Southern Operations will no Doubt be visible from the Letters.

N. B. In the Letter to Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington omit the first paragraph

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN ROBERT MITCHELL.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 217.)

Captain Mitchell

Sir,

In Council March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

The Arrival of a British fleet & Reinforcement having occasioned a Discontinuance of those Purposes for which the armed vessels

were impressed, I am now to beg the favor of you to discharge the whole of them, except those which have the military stores and Provisions on Board which you will please to have brought to Rockets,<sup>301</sup> there to be kept Waterborne. I must trouble you also to have returned whatever Ammunition &c. or other Public Property has been put into the Vessels to be discharged. We wish to have the daily Hire fixed and number of Days every vessel has been in Service, and that some person from every Vessel be authorized to settle & receive what is due. I wish an exact Report of any provisions which may be due and will have them immediately and specifically repaid.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
VARIOUS COUNTIES.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 217.)

To the County Lieutenants of Montgomery, Washington, Botetourt, Rockingham, Henry, Pittsylvania, Bedford, Buckingham, Prince Edward Charlotte & Halifax.

In Council March 29<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Militia from this State with General Greene being entitled very shortly to a Discharge and it being absolutely necessary to support him to prevent the Danger of Lord Cornwallis's turning on him again until the New Levies can be got into the field, you will be pleased to send immediately of the Militia of your County under proper Officers to join General Greene, arming as many as possible with rifles and the rest with the best Arms that can be got for them by impressing or otherwise.

|                    |     |                 |      |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------|------|
| Montgomery.....    | 187 | Bedford.....    | 384  |
| Pittsylvania.....  | 181 | Botetourt.....  | 175  |
| Halifax.....       | 285 | Buckingham..... | 156  |
| Rockbridge.....    | 156 | Henry.....      | 251  |
| Prince Edward..... | 115 | Charlotte.....  | 156  |
| Washington.....    | 207 |                 |      |
|                    |     |                 | 2253 |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CALL.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 218.)

Major Call<sup>302</sup>

In Council March 30<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Laws of this State rendering it necessary that all purchases of necessaries for the Army should pass through the Hands of the Commercial Agent by whom they may be properly carried into Ac-

<sup>301</sup>Rocketts is the wharf section of Richmond, named for Robert Rocketts, who had a ferry in that neighborhood as far back as 1730. Thomas Jefferson in his "Notes on Virginia," in speaking of the navigation of the James River refers to "Rocket's" as being a mile below Richmond.

<sup>302</sup>Richard C all, in the First Continental Dragoons.

count, it is impossible for us to take notice of any purchases made by the Continental Staff or other Officers. We furnish the Staff at such Times and in such Proportions as we are able with the money, which they are to apply according to the Orders they receive.

This must be considered as our answer with respect to the Swords to be procured on Continental Account from M<sup>r</sup> Hunter. We mean to direct the Commercial Agent to order 500 Horsemen's Swords to be made immediately by Mr Hunter on Account of the State. Two hundred of these will be for General Spotswood's two Legions should they be raised. Of the Residue we shall be as we ever have been ready to accomodate the Continent with what can be spared. We will direct them to be made by your model.

I inclose you an extract of a Letter to General Greene which will inform you what we wait for to begin the purchase of Horses. The late Impresses have been so extensive, that 'till we know the Actual State of the Cavalry we cannot possibly conjecture the number wanting; more especially as we have had no returns of their numbers at any Time past.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL WILLIAM R. DAVIE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 218.)*

To Wm R. Davie Esq<sup>r</sup> Commissary General of Purchases for the Southern Army

Richmond March 30 1781.

Sir,

Besides intrusting M<sup>r</sup> Brown our purchasing Commissary, as I had some Time before done to forward to you Drovers of Beeves for the use of the Southern Army, I desired him to write you himself precisely what were his prospects and in future to correspond with you on the Subject of furnishing provision, that you might know with Certainty what to expect from this State.

He has written the inclosed Letter. You will doubtless think it necessary to communicate your wants to him from time to time wh ch I would beg the favor to inclose open to me or otherwise make known at the same Time that I may be able to have attention paid to them as far as Circumstances will admit.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CLAIBORNE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 219.)*

Major Claiborne

Richmond March 30<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Operations against Portsmouth being now discontinued Oeconomy and respect to the rights of our Citizens require that the Horses impressed for that purpose be returned to their Owners. This I know will be a troublesome & expensive undertaking, but it may be



effectually done I hope if every Person who impressed is instructed to look out & return all the Horses impressed by himself. Should any of them not have been revalued by Col<sup>o</sup> Griffin, Colo. Southall & Mr. Anderson, be pleased to collect them in places convenient to those Gentlemen and get the favor of them to revalue them. In like manner I must desire that those formerly revalued by those Gentlemen may be again valued, because if they have fallen off or been injured, the Damage to be paid the Owner will thus appear.

Be pleased also to take the Orders of the Commanding Officers what number and kind of Boats shall be retained for passing Troops over James River occasionally, and return all the rest punctually to their Owners. Particular Attention should be paid to the letting every ferry have a good Horseboat.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. GRANVILLE SMITH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 219.*)

Mr Granville Smith,

Richmond March 30<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Operations against Portsmouth being now discontinued it becomes proper and necessary that all the Horses we have impressed for that Purpose should be returned to their Owners. This I know will be a troublesome and expensive undertaking, but it may be effectually done I hope if every Person who impressed is instructed to look out and return all the Horses impressed by himself. Before they are returned be pleased to collect them in parcels wholly at one or more places tolerably convenient to Williamsburg and apply to Colo Griffin, Mr. Southall and Mr. Anderson of that City, to revalue them, and should they have fallen off endeavour to give them such Information of their former Condition as may enable them to say what they were worth when impressed, and what they are worth now, by which the Damage to be repaid the Owner may be settled.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GREENE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 220.*)

General Greene

In Council March 30<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your favors of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>d</sup> instant and to congratulate you on the Effects of the Action of the 15<sup>th</sup> in which though the field could not be retained, yet you have crippled your adversary in such a manner as to oblige him ultimately to retire, which best shews which party was worsted. We have ordered Militia from the Counties stated in the Margin to relieve those now with you from this State and this without Delay. Knowing that there are always considerable Deficiencies in the Numbers actually marching and desirous you should receive the full number you desired (1500) you will observe we have called for about half as

many more. Most of the Counties on the North Side of James River have now I expect got through the raising their New Levies. We avoided calling Militia from them either to Carolina or on our own Invasion that they might proceed in this important Work. As soon as our Militia now with you return we shall set the residuary Counties on the same work except the eleven now called on for you, who must be spared till they shall return as the Law cannot be executed in any County in the Absence of any considerable proportion of its Militia.

The Commissary expresses apprehensions that the produce of our Law for bringing in stall fed Beeves will fall far short of Expectations.

He has purchased and is feeding upwards of 2,000. He assures me he has a large number of Persons employed in procuring them into Drovers to be forwarded on to you. I shall give constant Attention to him on this point, that every Thing may be carried to you which can possibly be spared hence. This will be abridged by the Reinforcement the Enemy have received at Portsmouth and the necessary Augmentation of our numbers in the field.

|                    |     |                 |                                 |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Washington.....    | 207 | Charlotte.....  | 156                             |
| Rockbridge.....    | 156 | Henry.....      | 251                             |
| Prince Edward..... | 115 | Botetourt.....  | 187                             |
| Pittsylvania.....  | 181 | Buckingham..... | 156                             |
| Montgomery.....    | 187 | Halifax.....    | 285                             |
| Bedford.....       | 384 |                 |                                 |
|                    |     |                 | <hr/> 2253 <sup>303</sup> <hr/> |

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 221.*)

David Ross Esqr

In Council March 30<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Being called on for Swords for General Spotswood's two Legions, and for our Cavalry on Continental establishment, to be procured immediately, You will be so good as to order five hundred to be made at M<sup>r</sup> Hunter's. General Spotswood I suppose will chuse to direct the form of those to be made for his Legions. The Residue we would be glad to have made on a model which will be lodged with Mr. Hunter by Major Call.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONELS GRIFFIN AND SOUTHALL AND MR. ANDERSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 221.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Griffin, Col<sup>o</sup> Southall, & M<sup>r</sup> Anderson.

In Council March 30<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Gentlemen,

I am sorry to be obliged to give you so much Trouble with the Horses lately impressed for operating against Portsmouth. That

<sup>303</sup>This total should be 2,265.

plan being now discontinued we have thought that Oeconomy and Respect to the rights of our Citizens required a restitution of all the Horses to their Owners. But as they may have fallen off or been injured, we wish that the whole should be valued by you as they were when impressed so far as you have not already done it, and then that the whole should be valued as they now stand that we may know what Sums should be paid their Owners in Damages.

The Quartermasters are desired to collect them in places convenient to Williamsburg and to give you notice. I must beg the favour of a report from you of your Proceedings, stating in different Columns, the Horse by a general Description, in what County taken, his Owner, his worth when impressed, & his Worth now.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 222.*)

President of Congress

Sir,

Richmond March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

The Letters and Papers accompanying this will inform your Excellency of the Arrival of a British flag vessel with Clothing, Refreshments Money &c for their Prisoners under the Convention of Saratoga.

The Gentlemen conducting them have on Supposition that the Prisoners or a part of them still remained in this State, applied to me by Letters, Copies of which I transmit your Excellency for Leave to allow water Transportation as far as possible and then for themselves to attend them to the Post where they are to be issued. These Indulgences were usually granted here, but the Prisoners being removed, it becomes necessary to transmit the Application to Congress for their Direction. In the mean time the flag will wait in James river.

Our Intelligence from General Greene's camp, as late as the 24<sup>th</sup> is that Lord Cornwallis's March of the Day before had decided his Route to be Cross-Creek.

The Amount of the Reinforcement to the Enemy arrived at Portsmouth is not yet known with Certainty. Accounts differ from 1500 to much larger Numbers. We are informed they have a considerable number of Horse.

The Affliction of the People for want of Arms is great. That of Ammunition is not yet known to them. An Apprehension is added that the Enterprize on Portsmouth being laid aside the Troops under the Marquis Fayette will not come on. An Enemy 3,000 strong not a regular in the State nor Arms to put into the Hands of the Militia are indeed discouraging Circumstances.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 223.*)

General Weedon.

Sir,

In Council March 31<sup>st</sup> 1781.

The great length of Time which the Militia had been in the Field who were first called on induced us on the Discontinuance of the En-

terprize against Portsmouth immediately to call so many Militia as with those lately called might make up a proper opposing Force. I state the whole in the Margin who are to be considered as Reliefs to the former Militia. The Reinforcement received by the Enemy will certainly call for more Force on our Part. Whether this may be most speedily obtained by requiring more Militia or by hurrying on the New Levies from those Counties which have not been interrupted in their Draught and from which we have a right to expect 1,500 Men seems not very certain. The latter would be most eligible as the former would be an additional Interruption to that important Work.

Besides those in the Margin we have been obliged to order 2,200 to relieve the Militia with General Greene. Thus pushed for men, the Barons Proposition was not acceded to as exposing the Country too much.

Master Alexander Frazer Gregorie is permitted to land and proceed to Urbanna, solely on the Letter he was furnished with by General Woodford in Gratitude for Services rendered that worthy Officer by his Father.

You will be so kind as to transmit the inclosed Letters to the Flag vessel in James River.

|                   |     |                            |     |
|-------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| Loudoun.....      | 168 | Culpeper.....              | 352 |
| Spotsylvania..... | 120 | Essex.....                 | 107 |
| Louisa.....       | 140 | Orange.....                | 140 |
| Frederic.....     | 267 | Hampshire.....             | 242 |
| Fauquier.....     | 292 | Fairfax & Prince William.. | 276 |
| Caroline.....     | 260 | King George.....           | 114 |
| Stafford.....     | 113 | Shenandoah.....            | 217 |
| Berkeley.....     | 258 |                            |     |

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL PHILLIPS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 224.*)

Major General Philips or other the Commanding Officer of the forces of His Britannick Majesty by sea or by land in Virginia.

Richmond March 31<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I have duly received your Favor dated New York March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Removal of the German Troops of Convention also from this State was a circumstance probably not known to you at that Date.

I am as yet uninformed of the Post at which they have been stationed, but believe it to be York Town and Lancaster in Pennsylvania, the nearest navigation to which is the Head of Chesapeake Bay. The Permissions desired for facilitating the Delivery of the Stores on Board the Flag are consequently no longer within our Gift, but I have forwarded the Applications to Congress and shall hope shortly to communicate their Consent to the Gentlemen conducting the Flag.



General Scott the Commanding Officer of the Virginia Line in Captivity at Charles Town, solicited and obtained from the Commandant there, a License to us to send Tobacco in any Quantity for the Relief of our Officers there. I take the liberty of inclosing to you a Copy of an extract from his Letter, on that Subject to the Commandant and the Answer he received as furnished me by General Scott. I do not expect that such a Copy without a Passport or other authentic Document from any British Officer would be sufficient protection to the vessels which should go charged with this Tobacco. I would therefore beg the favor of you to indulge us with a Passport in which I should not object to the Insertion of cautionary provisions rendering the passport invalid if the License should not have been really obtained as the Copy of the Letter imports. All I ask is that the vessel or vessels may be protected to Charles Town and to rest for safety there on what has passed between the Commandant and General Scott. Being informed that the Command of the British Land force within this State was in yourself, I am encouraged to make this Application to you. Should it have been made more properly to the Naval Commanding Officer, give me leave to ask the favor of your handing it to him.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE REV. JAMES MADISON AND THE  
REV. ROBERT ANDREWS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 225.*)

The Reverend James Madison & Robert Andrews.

Richmond March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

The principles on which the Boundary between Pensylvania and this State is to be run having been fixed it is now proposed by President Reid that Commissioners proceed to execute the work from the Termination of Masons and Dixons Line to the Completion of the five Degrees of Longitude and thence on a meridian to the Ohio.

We propose that the extent of the five Degrees of longitude shall be determined by celestial Observations. Of Course it will require one set of Astronomers to be at Philadelphia and another at Fort Pitt. We ask the favor of yourselves to undertake this business the one to go to the one place, the other to the other, meaning to add a Coadjutor to each of you. Good Instruments can be furnished no doubt at Philadelphia; but for the Pittsburg observations we must solicit the proper Instruments from your Corporation<sup>303a</sup> which we will undertake to return in good order, or if injured to replace them; I therefore beg the favor of you to solicit the Loan of those Instruments. With respect to yourselves we shall furnish Money for your necessary & comfortable Expences, the covered Waggon which conveys the instruments will take any baggage necessary for your Accommodation. And we will give you moreover 150 lbs of Tobacco a Day each dischargeable in current Money at the rate affixed by the

<sup>303a</sup>The College of William and Mary.

grand Jury at the General Court next preceding paiment. It will be necessary to proceed in this Business as soon as the general Mode shall have been agreed between the two States. Perhaps a meeting of the Commissioners at Baltimore may be previously requisite to settle particulars. I am to request an immediate Answer to this as I delay proposing to President Reid this mode of locating the Boundary until I know whether we can get the Execution of it undertaken by Gentlemen who will do us Credit and Justice.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN GERLACH AND LIEUTENANT DE HARTSTALL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 226.)*

Captain Gerlach & Lt De Hartstall

Richmond March 31<sup>st</sup> 1781

Sir,

The Departure of the German as well as British Troops of Convention from this State is a Circumstance probably unknown to you before your Arrival here. I am not informed to what place they were destined, but believe it was to York town in Pensylvania, the nearest Navigation to which is the Head of Chesapeake Bay.

I have however dispatched the Letters transmitted me by Express to Congress for their Determination on the several Articles of your Application and expect an Answer within about a fortnight from this Date which shall be transmitted you, the Moment I receive it.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 226.)*

Mr David Ross

In Council March 31<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Sir,

We have great reason now to expect the Arrival of M<sup>r</sup> De Francy's Squadron with 30,000 £ sterling's worth of Supplies for your Department. The State of the Bay is well known to you. We recommend that you take measures to keep a lookout for that Squadron and notify the State of things in the Bay by employing one or more swift sailing pilot Boats at such Place as you shall think best with Letters of notifications directed to the principal person who shall be with them.

Indeed a general Notification to all friendly vessels bound here would be not only expedient but seems incumbent on us to give.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

*(From "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 612.)*

March 31

The cannon at Edentown are not the property of this State, but of N<sup>o</sup> Carolina, which purchased a part of the same cargo, of which

the residue was purchased by us      their part was landed at Edentown & ours brought to S<sup>o</sup> Quay. under present circumstances it seems eligible to remove the cannon at S<sup>o</sup> Quay by water to some safe part of the Roanoke, from which they may either be transported across by land to James River. Blackwater is said to be navigable for flats or batteaux 30 miles, above S<sup>o</sup> Quay, this water course points directly towards Petersburg.<sup>304</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 611.)

In Council, Mar: 31<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Moneis paid by the State for the Continent, must be paid either to Quarter-masters, Pay-masters, or others having general authority to receive & apply moneis for the Continent, (and even with these we usually call for warrants,) or on special warrant from Congress. The board laments the delay of payment to the public creditors & particularly that any difficulties should be produced which may obstruct the future equipment of the cavalry. yet they cannot glean up & pay the Continental debts in this State on vouchers, which they know will be disallowed by Congress. they have long (upward of half a year) told Col<sup>o</sup> Finnie that if he would obtain warrants from Congress to cover our advancing money to him, we would enable him to pay his debts his failing to obtain warrants induces a suspicion, that it is not the intention of Congress, that we should meddle with his contracts.<sup>305</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(From *Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.*)

In Council Mar. 31. 1781.

The board not possessing the power of establishing new & permanent clerkships, have nevertheless been constrained at times to approve of occasional appointments of additional clerks to the Executive boards, reporting the matter to the succeeding assembly & referring to them for allowance. They will approve such an appointment at present, by Colo Davies & report it to the General Assembly.<sup>306</sup>

<sup>304</sup>This note was written by Jefferson on back of letter from Col. William Davies, commissioner of war, giving information in reference to two cannon at Edenton, North Carolina.

<sup>305</sup>This is also written on back of a letter from Col. Davies, in reference to certain articles for the Continental cavalry.

<sup>306</sup>This is written on back of letter from Col. Davies, dated March 30, printed in "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," I, 608, on the subject of an additional clerk. Though the letter of Col. Davies is printed in the "*Calendar*," the endorsement by Jefferson is not.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GREENE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 227.)*

General Greene

Sir,

Richmond April 1<sup>st</sup> 1781.

I am honoured with your Favor of the 27<sup>th</sup> by Mr Daniel. I informed you by Col<sup>o</sup> Morris of the reinforcement of Militia ordered to you; but they will not be in Time to supply the place of those now with you, if they leave you so early.

Certainly the knowledge that a Relief is coming in will induce them not to leave you in a State which may soon give us all to do over again. A Part of these Militia went under the regular orders of Government, and will be deemed Deserters if they withdraw without orders. The whole of them I presume went under orders from their County Lieutenants which are as obligatory as those of the Executive; how far particular stipulations may have been made with them I am uninformed. None could be made with those we ordered out. I shall use every exertion in my Power to forward on the New Levies to you, as I am sensible it is much more practicable to carry on a war with Militia within our own Country than out of it. I wrote you by Col<sup>o</sup> Morris on the Subject of Beeves. He will have given you full Information of the Issue of our preparations against Arnold.

An Enemy 3,000 strong not a regular within our State, nor Arms to put into the Hands of the Militia are Circumstances which promise Difficulties. Yet I shall think it essential to do every Thing we can for you to prevent the Return of Cornwallis's Army.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL NICHOLAS LONG.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 227.)*Colonel Long<sup>307</sup>

Sir,

Richmond April 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

The Order we gave you in your favour on M<sup>r</sup> Ross for Iron was for a special quantity and not meant to be general. We furnish Money for the Continental Quarter Master in this State and the Continental Q Master for the Southern Army. I assure you it is utterly out of our power to extend our Advances further to the Continental Officers acting in the other States. This prevents us from giving the Credit you desire with M<sup>r</sup> Ross. Col<sup>o</sup> Carrington being furnished by him with Iron may perhaps be able to supply you.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. ROBERT WALTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 228.)*

Mr Robert Walton

Sir,

In Council April 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

The General Assembly having directed that no Money should be paid for Horses 'till their Meeting in the ensuing Month puts it

<sup>307</sup>This was probably Colonel Nicholas Long, of North Carolina, connected with the quartermaster's department.



out of the power of the Executive to honour General Greene's Draughts for those purposes on Demand. I am very sorry that this Measure should be likely to involve the Honble the Delegates of Georgia in Inconveniences, which it is out of our power to prevent.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE TAX COMMISSIONERS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 228.*)

To the Commissioners of the Tax for Culpeper (& Prince William leaving out the last Paragraph)

In Council April 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Gentlemen,

Your Application for Money for your New Levies has been laid before the board. 'Tho' it does not seem proper to order the Money to be advanced from the Treasury without the Tobacco being first received yet such is the emergence and so necessary to have the men in the field that Money would have been sent you had the requisite Sum been specified, but that is not mentioned in your Letter nor any principles furnished on which it can be calculated. Should you find it necessary to send again with a specification of the Sum, you will be so good as to send the Tobacco Notes.

The Treasurer having found by Experience that Orders on the Sheriffs furnished a Handle for very great Abuses, refuses ever to give another.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 228.*)

Baron Steuben

In Council April 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

No Term having been fixed by the Executive for the Service of the Militia, I do not know whence it could have been collected that it was within ten days of expiring. Nevertheless it is most certain they would have been relieved long e'er this had it not been for the Enterprize meditated against Portsmouth. It was thought too dangerous to change the whole Body of Militia at that critical Juncture. The Moment that Object was laid aside we called for Militia from the Counties named in the Margin who with those before called from Loudoun, Fauquier, Fairfax, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Caroline & Culpeper were intended to constitute the Force acting in the field the succeeding two or three Months discharging all others as fast as these should come in. From these Calls we expected 2,700 Men, the Number you had desired to keep up while nothing offensive was meditated. Of all this we gave notice to the Marquis Fayette the then Commanding Officer. Considering the unusually long Tour the Riflemen and other Militia below have served, I think every Acknowledgement of their patient Service just, and every Encouragement necessary, to keep them contentedly 'till the Arrival of the Reliefs

ordered from the Counties in the Margin. I suppose we are not to expect the Men 'till the Middle of this Month and that it will be the last of the Month before all will get in. We take for granted you will be pleased always to notify to the Executive the number of Men you think requisite in the Field which may enable them to give orders for them on the proper Counties.

[Written in margin:]

|                |     |                            |     |                 |      |
|----------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|-----------------|------|
| Hampshire..... | 242 | Shenand <sup>h</sup> ..... | 217 | Louisa.....     | 140  |
| Berkeley.....  | 258 | Orange.....                | 140 | King George.... | 114  |
| Frederic.....  | 267 | Stafford.....              | 113 | Essex.....      | 107  |
|                |     |                            |     |                 | 1598 |

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 230.*)

General Weedon,

In Council April 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

I stated to you in a former letter the Militia ordered into Service to relieve those who had been so long in the field. They were directed to rendezvous at Williamsburg, but as the Boats have been since ordered up to Sandy Point, and may perhaps be again shifted, I refer to you the propriety of lodging orders at proper places on the Roads to turn them off from the rout they will be pursuing to cross them at such part of James River as you think best and to proceed to General Muhlenburg's Head Quarters. Proper Orders for this you will be pleased to give as a considerable part of the force under General Muhlenburg has been upwards of three Months from Home are very impatient and with great Reason. Any Men of the Counties meant for the present Tour of Duty which you have more than you can arm or than you want, had better go over to General Muhlenburg.

While you endeavour to keep up the Spirits of the People in the Neck below you are wise in not hazarding your Detachments more than cannot be avoided. They would certainly be cut off if trusted to remain there. Scouring parties will give spirits to the people, protect them from depredation, and if withdrawn of nights as far up as possible and always to new Ground, will perhaps be safe.

Not knowing what are the Stores laden on board the vessels you mention I can only desire that if they be not wanted soon, they be sent up the river to a safe station or this Place as you think best and that such as will be soon wanting be landed where you find it most proper.

P. S. I trust that in the discharge of Militia you see that very particular Attention is paid to the returning the public Arms and Ammunition put into their Hands. No Man should be discharged till he does or give a satisfactory Account of their Loss or expenditure.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL MUHLENBERG.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 231.)

General Muhlenburg

Sir,

In Council April 3<sup>d</sup> 1781

The Men under your Command who have been in the field from the beginning of the Invasion, having served a Tour of Duty unusually long, I am anxious to have them satisfied of the Accidents which have as yet prevented their relief. Others would have been ordered into their places long e're this, had it not been for the enterprize meditated against Portsmouth. The changing the whole Militia was thought too dangerous an operation at that critical Time. They know the Circumstances which occasioned this enterprize to be laid aside. The Moment the Arrival of a Reinforcement to the Enemy obliged us to discontinue our Intentions, a body of Militia was called for to relieve them from the Counties which had not yet been in Service. I state to you in the Margin the whole of them. The six Counties first named were called on to aid in the Operations against Portsmouth. It is meant however that they shall be kept with the nine last named to serve a full tour and constitute the opposing force, discharging all others as fast as these come in and first those which have been longest in the field. I must solicit your most exact Attention to the Return of all Public Arms and Accoutrements and Ammunition put into the Hands of Militia, whenever they shall be discharged. No Man should be discharged 'till he does this or gives a satisfactory Account of their Loss or expenditure.

I think myself very particularly obliged to acknowledge the patient Service of those who have been so long from Home, and am anxious that they should know that this had not proceeded from any previous Intention in Government, but from the Circumstances before explained. I hope they will be relieved in a very few Days & that in the mean time they will fill up the Measure of Merit by continuing to restrain the Excursions of the Enemy till others can come to succeed to those Duties. I beg Leave to have these matters particularly explained to Colo Matthews and Bowyer & through them to their men who I believe have been longest from Home.

[Written in the margin:]

|                    |                   |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Loudoun.....168    | Culpeper.....352  | Stafford.....113  |
| Fauquier.....292   | Hampshire....242  | Louisa.....140    |
| Fairfax.....200    | Berkeley.....258  | King George...114 |
| P William.....185  | Frederic.....267  | Essex.....107     |
| Spotsylvania...120 | Shenandoah....217 |                   |
| Caroline.....260   | Orange.....140    | 3075              |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 232.)

General Weedon

Sir,

In Council April 4<sup>th</sup> 1781

Your letters of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup> instant came to Hand this morning. It is not in our power to send any additional Arms to you at this Time.

I must therefore on this Subject refer you to a Letter of mine which you had not then received desiring that such Men from the Counties destined for the present Tour, as you have more than you can arm may be sent over to General Muhlenburg, who I fear will not be able to keep his riflemen 'till the Reliefs get to him.

I inclose you a Resolution of Council as to the exchange of Citizens formed in general terms, the board having determined that nothing shall ever be done for this or that Man particularly, but under general rules the advantage of which shall result equally to the lowest & highest Citizens.

Col<sup>o</sup> Curle<sup>308</sup> having been taken in Arms we think ourselves authorized to exchange for him in the military Line. But we some time ago proposed Col<sup>o</sup> Elligood in Opposition to Col<sup>o</sup> Matthews who was taken at the battle of Germantown and to this Proposition have not yet received final Answer. It would be very unjustifiable therefore to defeat Col<sup>o</sup> Matthews Right by agreeing to the exchange now proposed of Elligood for Col<sup>o</sup> Curle, nor have we in our possession any other Subject of the same rank to propose. Indeed we fear the right of turn will stand as an insuperable Obstacle to every proposition for the exchange of this Gentleman when we recollect that a whole Line stands before him in Captivity in Charlestown; And can we get over this without incurring the bitterest reproaches from the Gentlemen who would thus be put by, reproaches the more painful to us as they would be unanswerable. I wish with all my Soul, Col<sup>o</sup> Curle's enlargement on parole could be obtained. I think our indulgencies to the Captive Officers of the Enemy have been so liberal that General Phillips especially to whom this is known would not refuse it, particularly in so cruel an Instance as that of Col<sup>o</sup> Curle when I speak of an Indulgence to him on parole I mean such a parole as a Man of Honour may sign and not one on Pain of Life and Fortune which could have been framed only by a person insensible of the Obligations of Honour. To tender one of those would be an Insult on Col<sup>o</sup> Curle and tantamount to the refusing him altogether.

I inclose you a List of the prisoners we have here; any exchange of them which you can effect on the rule of Souldier for Souldier, Sailor for Sailor, Citizen for Citizen, shall be confirmed by us.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL NELSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 233.*)

General Nelson

In Council April 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I beg leave to trouble you with a Letter from Capt<sup>n</sup> Joel. As it is not consistent with the regulations of this State in the Money Department to pay expences in the lump without account, and you best know what Time Captain Joel has spent in our Service. We ask the favor of you either to appoint some person to settle his Account

<sup>308</sup>An account of Col. Curle's gallant conduct is given in a letter of Col. Innes to Gov. Jefferson, printed in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," I, 609.



and say what he should receive, or to report to us the Number of Days he has been in Service which may enable the Auditors to settle. While employed on the fire ship he should be considered as in the Service of the State, because the Tender of his Services on that business was accepted by the Executive. So also if you should have found it necessary to employ him at any time. But he is not to be considered as in the constant Service of the State, because on his first application to the Executive for an appointment he was decisively informed that so far from employment for more Officers we were discontinuing a number of our own as supernumerary.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES CALLAWAY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 233.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Calloway,<sup>309</sup>

In Council April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Before you receive this a circular letter will I expect have come to your hands from me accompanied by a resolution of Council for suspending your Draft till further order. It is intended to be revived when all your Militia shall be returned. It is our opinion that such of the Conspirators as knew of the Act of pardon and failed to comply with the Condition of it by taking the Oath of fidelity before the last Day of February, and those who did not know of it and on being informed shall refuse to take the Oath ought to be put into a due Course of prosecution.

Your proceedings for the Assistance of General Greene meet our highest Approbation. On receiving information from him dated the 23<sup>d</sup> of the last Month, that the Virginia Militia were about to leave him, we were obliged to call for more Militia to go to his Aid. Your County was called on for a fourth of it's Militia. Those you may have lately sent will be counted as part. I cannot say they will be wanting no more than precisely a Month tho' I do not expect they will. The new Levies in those Counties which for that very purpose were kept undisturbed 'till they could get through their Draft, and the Pennsylvania Line may both be expected to join General Greene within a month.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES BARBOUR.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 234.*)

Colo Barbour,<sup>310</sup>

In Council April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

We are of opinion that such of the Militia in the South as had enlisted in the regular Service, ought not, had it been known to have

<sup>309</sup>The spelling "Callaway" is preferred.

<sup>310</sup>Colonel James Barbour was county-lieutenant of Culpeper County.

been put on the Draught roll: Because although the Law required as well the absent as present Militia Men to be enrolled, yet it required Militia Men only and a Man is no longer of the Militia from the Moment he enlists as a regular. That Act withdraws him as absolutely from the body of Militia as Death does. That being put on the Draught roll however, it is to be considered as if the Name of a dead Man had been put on: that if the Lot fell on the enlisted or dead Man the rest of the Division was exempted and could not a second Time be subjected of drawing, but if it fell on any other that other is obliged to go.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL GREENE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 236.)*

Major General Greene

In Council April 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

It was formerly usual to require from the Continental Staff Officers in this State, Warrants from Congress for all Monies advanced to them. Since the War has been transferred to the Southward, the Calls for Money have been so apparently indispensable that we could not await warrants from Congress as had been before practised on Draughts from yourself or Major General Gates to whom authority to draw for Money was given. Nevertheless we think it essential to obtain your Sanction for the Monies after payment of them for which purpose I take the liberty of troubling you with Major Claiborne's receipt for some Monies from the State which were ordered without any previous Authority from a Sense of their Necessity.

It is not in our Power to procure you the £5,000 hard Money which you desired but we have put into the Hands of Major Claiborne a Warrant for half a Million of Pounds current Money to be liable to your order only. Perhaps you can find Means to have the hard Money purchased in Philadelphia for Money to be paid here.

That you may form some Idea of the Indiscretions which have occasioned a dissatisfaction in the Impresses of Horses, I inclose you copies of two papers lodged with me against a M<sup>r</sup> Rudder employed in that business. Instead of soothing the minds of the people and softening the harsh Act of taking their valuable Horses by Force, it has been frequently accompanied as we are informed by defiances of the civil Power, and Circumstances of personal Irritation.

As tedious as is the Operation of reasoning with every Individual on whom we are obliged to exercise disagreeable Powers, yet free People think they have a right to an Explanation of the Circumstances which give rise to the Necessity under which they suffer. Such has been the General Irritation under these Impresses that we have been obliged to authorize the County Lieutenants to restrain them under the Directions of the resolutions of Assembly I formerly inclosed you.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 235.*)

Baron Steuben

In Council April 6<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Executive have had it much at Heart to prevent as far as possible Interruption in raising the New Levies while they were constrained to bring a Number of Militia into the Field. For this Reason about one half of the Counties in the Northern part of the State were not called on for Militia till they had time to go through their Draught. This being done by them, they have been all of them (except those lying much exposed on the bay and lower parts of the rivers) required to send one fourth of their Militia to relieve those of the Southern Counties now in the field.

These amounted but to the number of 3075, and we had wished as soon as they could be in and the Southern Counties discharged to set those Southern Counties to raising their New Levies, and leave them undisturbed during that operation, which would employ them two Months. This plan has however been broken on by a requisition from General Greene of 1500 Militia which obliged us to call on eleven of those Counties. Anxious as we are to favour the raising the New Levies we would not sacrifice to it the manifest Safety of the State, and will therefore call for from them, any number of Militia you shall think further requisite to act defensively in this State.

Major Nelson's 3<sup>d</sup> Troop came here and Captn Reid reported them totally unfit for Service from poverty, sore Back, &c. I therefore ordered them to Port Royal to recruit their Horses, and to have their Equipments repaired at Fredericksburg, of which I informed the Marquis Fayette. Perhaps the Quarter Master in that Quarter might best judge whether Armands Corps could be accomodated and fed there also, or whether there be any better Place in his District.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 236.*)

Baron Steuben.

In Council. April 6<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Since writing my other Letter of this Date yours of today is come to hand. I take the liberty of inclosing to you an Extract of a Letter I wrote to General Weedon on the Subject of Col<sup>o</sup> Curle which I suppose had not been communicated to General Phillips at the date of his letter.

Col<sup>o</sup> Holmes at Winchester is the Continental Commissary of Prisoners in this State who I dare say can make a Return of all the Prisoners in this State, except those lately taken and not yet delivered to him.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN  
CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 237.*)

To the Honourable Virginia Delegates in Congress.

In Council Richmond, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Gentlemen

I have received your letter informing us of the Arrival of our Arms &c from Rhode Island at Philadelphia, and must pray you immediately to send forward the packages within mentioned containing Arms &c, engaging Waggon for that Purpose who shall be paid on their arrival here the price you contract to give them, and be protected from Impresses while in this State. Tho' we do not know the force of the Enemy now at Portsmouth yet the lowest Accounts make them 4,000. This will satisfy you how urgent is our want of those Arms. It is impossible to give you an Idea of the Distress we are in for want of Lead. Should this Army from Portsmouth come forth and become active (and as we have no reason to believe they came here to Sleep) our Affairs will assume a very disagreeable Aspect. The want of Arms and military Stores cannot be compensated by Numbers of Militia as that of regular Souldiers may.

Very considerable debts of a year or two's standing are due from Col<sup>o</sup> Finnie and his former Deputies. The present Quarter Master refuses to pay them. Col<sup>o</sup> Finnie gives himself no trouble about them. His former Deputies are anxious to pay them, and we willing to advance Monies to those Deputies for this Purpose if Congress will give us their Sanction. You will observe nothing was ever done by our legislature in Consequence of the resolution of Congress of 26<sup>th</sup> May 1780. Will you be so good as to obtain the Sanction of Congress for our paying these very clamorous & injured Creditors through the former Deputy Quarter Master and this to be done immediately.<sup>311</sup>

Mr Ross our Commercial Agent since the shutting up our bay finds it necessary to establish funds as far as possible in Philadelphia from which place all our Clothing and necessaries for the Army must come. We ask the favour of you to be attentive to aid him whenever any remittances of Money shall be intended to the Southward to have them paid to Mr. Ross's Agent there and draw on him for the Amount which shall be paid here and to give them every other possible Assistance in that way. He is furnished so largely with Tobacco and State Money as to leave no doubt of a want of punctuality.

<sup>311</sup>This request was granted. On April 26, 1781, Congress adopted the following:

Ordered, That a warrant issue on the treasurer of the State of Virginia, in favour of Charles Pettit, assistant quartermaster general, on account of Major General Greene, late quartermaster general, for the sum of five millions three hundred and forty-six thousand four hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fifteen ninetieths of a dollar, part of the money due from the said State prior to the first day of March, 1780, and which has been advanced by the said State to William Finnie, deputy quartermaster general, for which sum the said Major General Greene, late quartermaster general, is to be accountable. See "Journals of the Continental Congress," XX, 449.



To what a deplorable State shall we be reduced if the Bay continues blocked up. Commerce both Public and private is already taking it's Turn to Philadelphia, our Continental Money is all gone or going off in that Channel and no other resources for remittances to that place.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(*From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.*)

In Council Apr. 6. 1781.

The General Assembly having put down the public store & discontinued the issues to officers, the Executive are not at liberty to direct the purchase of cloathing. On the settlement of the depreciation account those who have received the least cloathing will have the less to credit the state.<sup>312</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAINS HARDY AND YOUNG.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 238.*)

Captains Hardy and Young.

In Council April 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

On laying before the Board the Information against Capt<sup>n</sup> Reeves, they think it best to ask the favour of yourself and Captain { Young } { Hardy } who is at { Chesterfield Court House } { M<sup>r</sup> Trents at Ozbornes } to give in the information to some justice of the Peace for the County of Henrico who will there-upon determine the nature of the offence of which Capt<sup>n</sup> Reeves may have been guilty and put him under a due Course of legal Prosecution. The sooner this is done the better, and I need not observe to you the propriety of your both attending the justice together.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL THOMAS READ.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 239.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Thomas Read.

In Council April 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am sorry to find that the Order for 156 of your Militia to join General Greene is likely to bear so hard and yet that his Necessities are such as leaves it in our power to relax somewhat only and not to excuse altogether.

The Number 156 was calculated as a fourth of your Militia according to the latest Return we then had. Your present return would reduce the fourth to 141. However instead of that we will require

<sup>312</sup>Written on back of letter from Col. Davies to Governor Jefferson. Col. Davies's letter to Gov. Jefferson is printed in Vol. II of the "Calendar of Virginia State Paper," but Jefferson's reply, given above, is not.

100 only, and that among these shall be counted such of your Deserters from the Militia Service at Portsmouth or elsewhere as you shall immediately send on, and any of your Militia now with General Greene who will stay as long as the Militia now going out. By a return made to me the last of February you had but 108 Men in Service with the lower Army. The Number is probably since reduced still more by Desertion. From this Source therefore taking immediate and vigorous Measures to sentence and send them on, your number will be considerably eased. And I hope that the difference may be made up without great Hardships. We keep a very exact Account of the Duties performed by the several Counties and shall attend most pointedly to the equalizing them through the State, so that no County shall have Cause to complain of an unequal pressure of Service. I shall hope you will send on 100 Men as before mentioned without Delay.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(*From Bergh, "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," IV, 173.*)

The President of Congress.

Richmond, April 7, 1781.

*Sir,*— Hearing that our arms from Rhode Island have arrived at Philadelphia, I have begged the favor of our Delegates to send them on in wagons immediately, and, for the conveyance of my letter, have taken the liberty of setting the Continental line of expresses in motion, which I hope our distress for arms will justify, though the errand be not purely Continental.

I have nothing from General Greene later than the 27th of March; our accounts from Portsmouth vary the reinforcements, which came under General Phillips, from twenty-five hundred to three thousand. Arnold's Strength before, was, I think, reduced to eleven hundred. They have made no movement as yet. Their preparation of boats is considerable; whether they mean to go southwardly or up the river, no leading circumstance has yet decided.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE REVEREND JAMES MADISON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 239.*)

Reverend James Maidson

Richmond April 8<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir*

I am authorized to inform you that a good Horse or two shall be furnished you by the Public for your Journey. I think it would be unreasonable in us to expect the Pennsylvania Commissioners to carry a Time Piece to Fort Pitt unless we should send one to Philadelphia which would be preposterous. I should be very unwilling to admit a Difference to be begun with them on this Subject. I think in my Letter to you I undertook to assure you that if the Time piece

of the College should receive such an Injury as could be repaired here, it should be repaired at the Public Expence, and if [it] could not be repaired that the Instrument should be replaced as soon as peace shall have opened Importations to us, but indeed if carried in a covered Waggon which shall be provided, well packed, laid on a feather bed which you may find it necessary to carry for yourself or otherwise on Straw, or perhaps swung it cannot receive Injury.

When it is considered that this Instrument was given by the Public, that the loan of it is now asked for a Purpose important to the Public Interest and in no small Degree to Geographical Science and that it goes insured by the Public I hope the temporary Inconveniences which may result by possibility will not deprive the State of the Benefit of it.

You mention in your Letter a Purpose of coming here shortly. let me take the liberty of intreating you to suffer the private Motives which were leading you here to be inforced by the Public Object and to come immediately.

As I wish much to be quite possessed of the Mode and Circumstances of transacting this Business, before I write to President Reid which I shall accordingly defer in Hopes of seeing you. It will probably shorten the business if I can inform him what we have in Idea, what we can contribute &c.

Besides this there is another very interesting Subject on which some others as well as myself wish a free Conference with you.

In hopes of Seeing you immediately I shall add nothing more than that I am with very great Esteem, &c.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE REV. ROBERT ANDREWS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 241.*)

The Reverend Robert Andrews

Richmond April 8<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

In Answer to your favour of the 4th instant, I am to inform you that two horses shall be furnished by the Public for your Journey to Philadelphia. Mr Madison having hinted to me that he proposed to be at this Place within a few Days, I have urged him on that Head, and in the meantime shall defer writing to President Reid, that I may previously obtain (which I may do from conversing with Mr Madison) a perfect Idea of the mode of having this Business done, and drop nothing to President Reid inconsistent with that.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 241.*)

The Honble Virginia Delegates in Congress

In Council April 9<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Gentlemen,

Since my letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> I received Information that two Parcels of Medicines marked C V (which we construed Commonwealth

of Virginia) were consigned on private Account to Monsieur Coulaux la Vigne, and with other Parts of the Cargo of Le Comité were considered as ours; Be so good as to cause Delivery of them to be made to Mons<sup>r</sup> Coulaux la Vigne, he paying all reasonable Charges.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN EDWARD TRAVIS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 241.*)

Captain Edward Travis  
Sir,

In Council April 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

I am to ask the favor of you to proceed to examine James & Apomatox Rivers for a swift sailing lookout boat and to treat for such one as you find suited to that purpose. A vessel equipped for instant Service is what is wanting, and we should be glad to take the Men also into Service, as the Money the Terms of purchase be accordingly [*sic*]. Be pleased to report the Terms proposed before you conclude them.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 242.*)

General Weedon.  
Sir,

In Council April 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

We shall with very great Chearfulness contribute as far as within our power to render the Circumstances of the War as little afflicting as possible, more especially by encouraging on just principles and giving Paroles where Exchanges are not subject to our will, but under the American Constitution our powers as to exchange extend but to few Subjects. With respect to Officers the right of Turn in Exchange we consider as sacred, and cannot consent to any Thing by which those Gentlemen shall be postponed who have been longest in Captivity, but we freely agree to the paroling them on both Sides.

With Respect to privates we think ourselves right when we consider all prisoners of War taken by our Militia while no Continental Troops are acting with them, as subject to the separate Disposal of the State until delivered over to the Continental Commissary of prisoners. The number of these at present with us is small. It may or may not increase. We consent chearfully as far as it extends or shall extend to exchange them for such of our Militia as have been or shall be taken in Arms. As to those which have been put into possession of the Continental Commissary of prisoners, they can only be exchanged under Continental Authority. We shall certainly do every Thing in our power to promote it in the greatest Latitude.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. THOMAS READ.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 242.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Thomas Read  
Sir,

In Council April 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

At the time of writing your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> you had not received my letter in Answer to your former. In Consideration of the Exer-



tions of your County, I am further to notify to you in Addition to what I did in that, that we wil not insist on the Number of 100 therein mentioned, so far as to carry any on duty again who are just returned or returning, or are still on duty Send all able to do Duty who have not performed their Tour, and all Delinquents with which we shall be satisfied.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 243.*)

Baron Steuben

In Council April 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

General Scott having obtained permission from the Commandant at Charlestown for the Shipping of Tobacco from this State to that port for the Relief of the Continental troops there of our line, sent me a copy of that Permission taken by his Brigade Major. This paper not being sufficiently authentic to protect from Capture vessels which should go laden with Tobaccos, I wrote to Major General Phillips to ask a Passport and received his Answer extracts from both of which I now do myself the Honour of inclosing to you. By his letter you will perceive he proposes that the Regulations under which she goes, shall be settled between yourself, himself and the British naval Commander here. General Phillips speaks in his Letter of permitting a flag vessel in the singular Number. It was not my Intention in the Application to fix it to a single vessel. The vessels we have in our power to employ are so small that one of them laden with Tobacco would carry very little Relief.

It requires 100 Hogsheads of Tobacco a Month to pay off the Virginia Line in Charlestown, and they are a twelvemonth in Arrear, and the Debts that they have contracted are in proportion to those Arrears. We had proposed to send from six to nine hundred Hogsheads of Tobacco. I wish therefore that the permission could be regulated rather by the Tonnage than number of vessels.

Another Circumstance of Difficulty is introduced by his Letter, which is, that an Officer from Portsmouth must go in the vessel; to this we have not the least Objection; but that he might expect to return in her, whereas we can only procure vessels which would mean to pursue their mercantile Objects to some other Port for Cargoes asking from Charlestown the Protection of the flag till they should be clear of their Coasts.

Should the restriction to a single vessel however be insisted on by British Commander we should ultimately wish to urge that a Pilot Boat may be permitted to attend her for the Purpose of bringing back the Officers who necessarily go to attend the Delivery of the Tobacco. As we have every Thing in readiness for sending this Relief to our Prisoners, and they are in extreme Distress, I will beg the favor of as early an Attention to the Settlement of this matter as your business will permit you to bestow

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES SLAUGHTER.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 245.)*Col<sup>o</sup> James Slaughter,In Council April 11<sup>th</sup> 1781.*Sir,*

The Orders from General Weedon for your crossing at Sandy Point were in Consequence of Instructions from this board. As you go to relieve Militia at General Muhlenburg's Camp, you will of Course receive the Arms now in their Hands. In the mean Time your March will be perfectly safe, as you will have General Muhlenburg's Camp between yourselves and the Enemy.

The present place of his Encampment is not precisely known to me, but it is 25 or 30 Miles above Portsmouth. You will know it by Enquiry long before you get near it, We shall pay careful Attention to the Relief of the Militia in due Time, combining together as well as we can their Conveniences and the general Good.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
FREDERICK.*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 245.)*

County Lieutenant of Frederic.

In Council April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1781.*Sir,*

I have received a letter from Colo Taylor proposing the Discharge of the Regiment of Guards, and have directed such part of it as is entitled, to be discharged and the Residue to remain to guard the Convention Prisoners. I think it necessary to inform you, that it is not intended that the Deficiency shall be supplied by Militia. The several Duties now lying on the Militia for the Eastern, Western & Southern Service are sufficiently oppressive to them, without harassing them further with guarding these Prisoners also; in Addition to those before stationed at Winchester, of these general Duties your County will of course be called on to take its equal Share, and as we should not give it Credit for any Tour performed in guarding the Convention troops, so justice requires that we should not expect that Service from them.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL FRANCIS TAYLOR.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 244.)*Col<sup>o</sup> TaylorRichmond April 11<sup>th</sup> 1781*Sir*

My letter to Colo Wood by Mr Martin as well as the one by the Dragoon was written under the Idea of the Troops of Convention having left the State. As they are now ordered to remain our Instructions must be varied. The Men who enlisted to serve as Guards

only during the Stay of the Troops in Albemarle, are undoubtedly entitled to a Discharge.

Leaving therefore all the rest with the Convention Troops and with just so many Arms as are necessary for themselves, be pleased to have these entitled to Discharge marched back with their Arms to the Barracks in Albemarle and there paid off and discharged. I wrote Colo Wood fully what to have done as to the spare Arms and Stores. Those Directions continue still proper and the Arms are extremely wanting for our defence below. Mr. Martin received Money to pay the Regiment off; every Effort is exerting to procure Cloathing.

With respect to the Militia Guard for the Convention Troops; it is impossible to spare one. So heavy is become the Militia Duty, by the Demands from General Greene, and to form an Army below that not a single County or Part of a County can be spared.

The last Assembly entered on no Business, but of the most indispensable Nature. I before advised you to apply to them by way of Memorial on Behalf of the Officers of your regiment which might be determined on at the approaching Session.

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From the Virginia State Archives.)*

IN COUNCIL: April 11-1781.

*Sir,*

Having received an application from the Commanding Officer to strengthen our army below, and being very unwilling to harrass the Militia more than shall be absolutely unavoidable, we are in hopes an immediate and sufficient accession of force may be obtained by application to the several Counties for their delinquents in Militia duty whom the Law sentences to six months service. Every County, we are confident, must have a number of these, and the laying them under the penalty is a justice due to the better part of the County, on whom, without a strict execution of the Law, the whole Militia duties will fall: These are now become too weighty not to be exacted equally and rigidly from all. Should your delinquents have not yet been sentenced, you will be pleased to call a Court-Martial immediately for their trial. You will consider it as a standing part of the duty of the Officer, whom in my letter of the 30th of March, 1781, you were desired to appoint for receiving recruits for the war, to receive from time to time, all persons of whatever denomination, sentenced to serve in the army, and instruct him to march them to this place whenever he shall have such a number as the distance and public necessity may render it expedient to march. The delinquents now particularly called for he must march immediately on their receipt to Williamsburg. By executing this requisition, justice will be done to the past services of the worthier part of your County, the tardy will be punished, due obedience to the Laws insured in future, the military duties equally and justly divided, and the necessity of an immediate call on you for more Militia prevented.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES HENDRICKS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 246.)*Col<sup>o</sup> Hendricks.In Council April 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I had the Honour of an Application from yourself and others of the Town of Alexandria for enabling you to mount some Cannon for the Defence of your Town. This Letter was not delivered 'till after one on the same Subject from Col<sup>o</sup> Waggoner had been delivered and answered and the Sum of £5,000 ordered, which I afterwards found was considerably necessary.

It was long ago determined to erect a Battery on each of the four great Rivers at the first Point where the passage of vessels could be prevented. We begun with James River, but such has been the Impossibility of procuring hands that we never could complete the work there small as it was proposed. There being no place on Potowmac at which the passage of vessels could be prevented and Alexandria being the principal post, we fixed on that as the proper place to have a defensive Work.

A Battery of two Guns to drive off hostile vessels with a redoubt & Blockhouse sufficient for from 50 to 80 Men to defend the Battery, and perhaps too (if the Situation should admit) to be some Defence to the Town itself, is what we propose.

The Constitution of these will require about 10 Artificers (Blacksmiths, Carpenters and bricklayers) and require 40 Labourers three months. We should rely on the Town to man the Works in Case of Alarm, the State only stationing there a sufficient Guard of regulars to keep Centinels on Constant Duty. I shall get the favour of Colo Senf a skilful Engineer to go to Alexandria, examine the Ground and form a Plan of what can be done in this small Way to furnish Protection for the vessels of Potowmac, which shall be obliged to run there for refuge.

Whether the necessary works may require more or less than I have before supposed he will inform you; And I am to undertake for Government that if the persons interested will furnish or procure by a fixed Day the requisite number of Artificers & labourers to continue the requisite Time, these shall be paid by the State at the prices below stated which are what they give in other Cases and that without delay, and that all other necessities shall be furnished by the State and a proper person sent to direct the Execution of the Work as planned by Colo Senf who will from time to time visit it himself during its Execution.

It will be the last of the Month before he will be able to go; in the mean time I shall hope to know whether we may undertake this work under an Assurance of it's not failing thro' want of Hands.<sup>313</sup>

<sup>313</sup>Much of the correspondence in reference to this work is to be found in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," II. Col. Hendricks was mayor of the town of Alexandria. The rates of pay referred to above are not given, but were probably the same as those given heretofore.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE FRENCH MINISTER, THE  
CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 247.*)

His Excellency the Chevalier De la Lucerne.

Richmond April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir*

I have the honour of your Excellency's favor of March 23<sup>d</sup> and shall with great pleasure communicate to our Citizens our prospect of Aid from his most Christian majesty to whom we are already so infinitely indebted.

I assure you Sir that these Prospects are necessary to inspirit them under the present Aspect of their Affairs. We suppose one half of the enemys force in the United States to be to the Southward. Georgia and South Carolina have been long theirs, and North Carolina however disposed convulsed by the ravages of two Armies her Citizens are too much engaged in saving their families and Property to join the American Army. I believe it may therefore with truth be said, that the opposition to the two hostile Armies in North Carolina and Virginia falls at present on Virginia only aided with about 500 Men from Maryland: While our Northern Brethren, infinitely superior in numbers, in compactness, in Strength of Situation, in Access to foreign Supplies, of necessaries, possessed of all the Arms and military Stores of the Continent, opposed by an Enemy not superior to ours, have the protection of almost the whole of the Continental Army, with the very important Addition of the Army and fleet of our Allies. A Powerful Enterprize meditated by the Northwestern Savages, has obliged this State to have an Army of between two & three thousand men collected at this Time on the Ohio. The Cherokees on our Southwestern Corner take off the Aid of our most valuable Counties in that Quarter. To support General Greene and prevent the enemy entering our Country on the South we are obliged to send the whole of our regulars and continual reliefs of Militia, and on our Seaboard an enemy three thousand strong is firmly posted, has totally shut up the only door we had to Commerce for either private or publick purposes, and lays us under the necessity of keeping up two Armies of Militia to prevent their ravaging the adjacent Country. Notwithstanding all this I believe from what I have lately seen that we should be substantially safe were our Citizens Armed, but we have not as many Arms as we have Enemies in the State.

Under such Circumstances it is not easy to foretell events, and it is natural for our People to ask if they are to have no help from others.

Should any considerable part of the Union be abandoned to the Enemy, it must be in their hands very formidable to the future Safety of the rest.

The Interests of our Allies, were an appeal to that Motive necessary would place the Southern States in a point of View of some Importance, as presenting to them very fair Objects of Commerce.

This consideration however we are convinced was not wanting to draw to us the Aid of his Most Christian Majesty. The late efforts

made for us by his fleet and army demonstrate that his Attention is not partial, and the hope held up in your letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> is a further proof.

The Northern States are safe: their independence has been established by the joint efforts of the whole. It is proved as far as testimony can prove anything that our Enemies have transferred every expectation from that Quarter and mean nothing further there than a Diversion in favour of their Southern Arms. It would be unfortunate indeed should it be again proposed to lose a Campaign on New York and to exhaust on that the efforts of the Confederacy as those of Spain on Gibraltar, to give up Provinces in the South for towns in the North. Should a superiority on the Continental Seas be obtained by your fleet, it will save everything from North to South: If the Detachments of the British Army can once be insulated, they will be whittled down by the militia by famine, by Sickness, and desertion to nothing.

If they can be prevented availing themselves of an army flying on the Wings of the wind to relieve the labouring post acting in New York, this week, in Portsmouth the next, in Charlestown the third, the face of the Continental war would be totally changed, and a single Campaign would strip them of the Labours and laurels of half a dozen. Could the Enemies for instance at Portsmouth, be excluded from the water, they might be immediately blockaded by Land, and must fall in a due course of Time without the Loss of a Man on our part.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. EVERARD MEADE AND OTHER GENTLEMEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 249.)*

Col<sup>o</sup> Meade, Col<sup>o</sup> Griffin, Col<sup>o</sup> Mosby, M<sup>r</sup> Smith, Col<sup>o</sup> Goode, Col<sup>o</sup> Pleasants, M<sup>r</sup> Bolling, Col<sup>o</sup> Southall, & Col<sup>o</sup> Dixon.

In Council April 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

Reasons to believe that the enemy intend a movement across the Country towards Carolina have induced Major General Baron Steuben to desire anxiously to have made up of a sudden a body of 200 Cavalry.

It is probable they will not be wanting a fortnight but in any Event they shall be discharged at the End of one Month from their rendezvousing at Petersburg. Supposing it would be in your power to raise a Number suddenly I take the liberty of troubling you as I do several other Gentlemen with the Proposition. It will be necessary for the Troopers to mount and equip themselves. Some good swords it will be in our power to furnish, & all of them with a shorter Kind. So that the want of that Article need not keep them from the field. Their Horses and Accoutrements shall be ensured by the Public against everything but negligence and the Service should be counted in lieu of a tour of Militia Duty. We wish them to rendezvous as they are raised at Petersburg, as the Call, should it happen, will happen in a few Days. The Commands shall be arranged at the Rendezvous. For so short a service it is hoped that no difficulties will arise on that Head.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 250.*)

Circular Letter To the County Lieutenants.

In Council April 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir*

Having received an Application from the Commanding Officer to strengthen our Army below, and being very unwilling to harrass the Militia more than shall be absolutely unavoidable, we are in hopes an immediate and sufficient Accession of force may be obtained by an Application to the several Counties for their delinquents in Militia Duty whom the Law sentences to six Months Service. Every County we are confident must have a number of these, and the laying them under a Penalty is a Justice due to the better Part of the County, on whom, without a strict Execution of the law the whole militia duties will fall.

These are now become too weighty not to be exacted equally and rigidly from all. Should your delinquents have been not yet sentenced you will be pleased to call a Court martial immediately for their Trial.

You will consider it as a standing part of the Duty of an Officer whom in my letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1781. You were desired to appoint for receiving recruits for the war to receive from time to time all persons of whatever Denomination sentenced to serve in the Army and instruct him to march them to this place whenever he shall have such a number as the distance and public necessity may render it expedient to march. The delinquents now particularly called for he must march immediately on their Receipts to Williamsburg, by executing this Requisition, Justice will be done to the past Services of the worthier part of your County, the tardy will be punished, due obedience to the Laws ensured in future, the military duties equally and justly divided & the necessity of an immediate Call on you for more Militia prevented.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL WILLIAM CALL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 251.*)

Colonel Call

In Council April 12<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

You are not unacquainted with the Desire which Government has long had of erecting some defensive works at Hoods in your County, which might protect so much of the river as lies above that place.

The late Incursion of the Enemy up the river, their acknowledgements of the Obstructions which that Por well prepared might have been to their Enterprize, their taking permanent post at Portsmouth, and preparing flat bottomed Gun Boats for ravaging the rivers are so many convincing Proofs of the Importance of this Object. The whole Work projected required from the first but little labour. I endeavoured by calling on five Counties to furnish on hire six Hands a Piece for a moderate time to effect it's Completion but in this we

failed in a great Measure. Every Day bringing in new proofs of the necessity of still pressing this Work, I am induced to make to you on behalf of your County the following Proposition that every Man of your County who will go or send an able labourer to work at Hoods eight Days between this Time and the last day of this Month, carrying with him an Axe and a Spade if he has it, r otherwise a Hough, shall be exempted from Militia Duty out of his County for two Months from this Date.

The Superintendent at Hoods will receive the Men direct their labours and give you Certificates of those who shall have complied with the Condition. I must entreat you to give immediate Notice of this Proposition through your whole County. Rations will be furnished them there. They must carry their own Bedding, and such Arm as they have to prevent Surprise from any small vessel which might run up. Be pleased also to inform me as soon as possible what prospect we have from this proposition and at the Close of the work the Proportion of your Militia who will have exempted themselves for the above Term being called out of the County.

P. S. I do not mean by this to withdraw from Service the Men now in the field or going there. General Muhlenburgs want of Men renders their Service necessary for the time they were to stay.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO CERTAIN COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 252.)*

The County Lieutenants of King William, Augusta, Rockingham, New Kent, Amherst, Cumberland, Powhatan, Amelia, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Chesterfield, Sussex, Southampton, Henrico, Charles City, Prince George, Surry, Isle of Wight.

In Council April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir,*

As your Militia is now returned or on their return home, we have thought it necessary to take off the Suspension of the Acts of October 1780 for recruiting this States Quota of Troops to serve in the Continental Army and to desire you to proceed to the raising the New Levies required from your County by that Law, and sending them to the Rendezvous as directed in my Letter of January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

*(From Virginia State Archives, Ex. Papers.)*

In Council Apr. 12. 1781.

It will be more regular for the money desired by Colo Senf to be furnished by the Q. M. and will be less perplexing to Colo Senf, who would find it very troublesome to be settling with waggoners &c. Will Colo Davies be pleased to give orders on this head to the Q. M. and to originate a warrant if that should be necessary? Also an order to the Commissary to lay in 4000 rations at Pr. Geo. C. H. by the



18<sup>th</sup> inst. including what he has at Hood's, as we have proposed to that county that every man who shall go or send an able person to labour at Hood's 8. days between this & the last day of this month shall be exempted from militia duty out of his county three months.<sup>314</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL HENRY LEE.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 252.)

Colo Henry Lee<sup>315</sup>

In Council April 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry to hear that the Counties on Potowmac are so much harrassed by the Enemy and am very apprehensive it will continue some Time until our Allies can clear us of them which I hope and expect.

The Act of Assembly referred to in your Letter as authorizing the Executive to raise Militia Cavalry only gave that Authority where there was reason to apprehend a Mutiny against the late Draught Upon this Apprehension we authorized the raising a Troop for the two Counties of Northumberland and Lancaster & no where else. We wish exceedingly that we had a Power of doing it, because it would be the most effective protection to the exposed Counties which could be given them by Land. All we can venture to do is if you can make use of a party of Militia not exceeding the Number of a Troop as mounted Infantry, finding their own Horses, we may order forage to be found them while on actual Duty, but in every other Respect they must be considered as Militia for this Purpose. I inclose you an order to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Millan Deputy to M<sup>r</sup> Brown in your County.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 253.)

The Honourable Virginia Delegates in Congress.

In Council April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Your letter of the 3d inst. came to hand yesterday. You will by this Time have received letters from me desiring you to do what you have done as to the Arms and in some measure as to the refugees. It would be more agreeable to us that they should be sent to France than delivered up to us. I beg leave to add to the Names of those I before mentioned one Cranmer who is said to be the most mischievous of the whole. There may be others, whom it would be desirable to have removed with them, were their names known to us.

I inclose you a Copy of an intercepted letter from a Captain Thomas of the British in which you will find a Display of the present

<sup>314</sup>This letter is written on back of letter from Col. Senf to Gov. Jefferson, dated April 12, urging the sending of "hands" to Hoods as soon as possible. Col. Senf's letter is given by abstract in the "Calendar of Virginia State Papers," II, 31.

<sup>315</sup>Colonel Henry Lee was county-lieutenant of Prince William County. He was the father of "Light Horse Harry" Lee and grandfather of Robt. E. Lee.

plan of the Enemy as to Chesapeake Bay and it's waters, and Copies of Letters from Captain Reade, and Colonel Richard Henry Lee shewing that the plan is now in a Course of execution. I trouble you with them as they may enable you to avail us of any opportunity which may occur of getting the bay secured. I also inclose an extract of a letter from General Greene to Baron Steuben, to shew you what are the Apprehensions for the Want of lead since the failure of our Mine.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 253.*)

Baron Steuben

Sir,

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

As so much of the subject of Col<sup>o</sup> Davies's letter as relates to the Conduct of the Continental issuing Commissary General in this State lies within your powers of Reformation altogether, I take the liberty of handing on the letter to you. It is very interesting to us that the Provisions issued for Continental use be issued to Persons authorized to give proper vouchers for debiting the Continent, and I entertain no doubt but that you will be so kind as to have this Branch of Business so arranged. In the mean time it might have an ill effect to stop the issues at so early a Day as the one proposed, as within that Space it might not perhaps be practicable to have the necessary Arrangements made. I also inclose you Copies of Letters just come to hand from the President of Congress. I wish this Intelligence may not stop the Pennsylvania line and leave General Greene to depend still on this State and Maryland alone. As to ourselves it is our wish to act on the defensive only in this State and not to stop a single regular till General Greene should be made sufficiently superior to his Enemy.

P. S. I think in Conversation you mentioned that you should store the spare Arms and military Stores from Genl Muhlenburg's Camp at Prince George Court house. As the Depredations of the enemy on Potowmack have stopped a considerable Part of the Militia we had relied on to reinforce Genl Muhlenburg so that we are obliged to call on other Counties, he will probably continue some Time too weak to oppose the Enemy. This seems to render it essential that the Stores above mentioned be withdrawn out of their Reach.

Prince George Court house being but four Miles from the river I submit it to you whether, on the Prospect of our Reinforcements being tardy, a more interior situation would not be better.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 254.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Samuel Smith of Baltimore.

Sir,

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

It is quite agreeable to us to take at Port Royal<sup>316</sup> the seventy five Barrels of flour you have purchased there in Exchange for so

<sup>316</sup>In Caroline County, on the Rappahannock.

much we were to expect at Baltimore and any further Quantity you may procure at the former in lieu of the remaining Ballance at the latter place. M<sup>r</sup> John Brown Commissary for this State has orders to call for it and his Receipt will be good.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CERTAIN COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 255.)

To the County Lieutenants of Fauquier, Loudoun, Caroline, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Goochland & Henrico.

Sir,

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

I am to desire you to send of your Militia under proper officers with such good Arms as they have, and especially Rifles, to rendezvous at Williamsburg on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of May and to continue in Service two Months from the time of their getting to the Rendezvous. As Circumstances may render it necessary to change the Rendezvous, you will be pleased to order them by the way of where they will receive final Orders on that Head.

You are at liberty to deduct from the above number any Delinquents whom you may send with them under sentence to serve six Months or any longer time for having failed to obey former Calls or deserting from Duty. Should any Individuals you shall call for fail to attend at the Time you appoint for their meeting in your County, so as to occasion a deficiency in the above number you will be pleased immediately to call for that deficiency from the next divisions and take Measures for sentencing and sending on such new Delinquents for six Months and so from time to time on every Call.

P. S. to the letters to Fauquier & Loudoun:

Your Men now in the field below are to be discharged the Moment those above called for arrive their.

P. S. to the letter to Goochland:

You will also be pleased to deduct from the above number the 40 Men furnished by your County to guard Prisoners to Winchester.

P. S. to the Letter to Henrico:

You will also be pleased to deduct from the above Number so many Men as you have furnished within these two Months as Guards & for which we promised you a Credit excepting those also who having been appointed to guard the Boats deserted & left them.

|                |     |               |     |                |     |
|----------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Fauquier.....  | 252 | Loudoun.....  | 407 | Caroline.....  | 245 |
| Albemarle..... | 204 | Fluvanna..... | 70  | Goochland..... | 129 |
|                |     | Henrico.....  | 145 |                |     |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BROWN.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 256.)

M<sup>r</sup> John Brown.

Sir,

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Smith at Baltimore has at that place a quantity of flour belonging to this State. He offers 75 Barrels at Port Royal in

the hands of Lindsay and Johnson in exchange for so much and to procure more there in further exchange; as it is more convenient to us at Port Royal than Baltimore you will be pleased to take Measures for having it received on Account of the State.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. ANDREW DONNALLY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 256.*)

Colonel Donnelly,<sup>317</sup>

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am sorry to find that the Indians have begun their Hostilities so early: however I hope General Clarke will soon give them employment nearer home & that you will be thus effectually relieved. I have directed M<sup>r</sup> Brown the Commissary to appoint a Deputy in your County for subsisting any Militia it shall be necessary to employ, which Deputy will have a Power of using the Tax Grain and providing Beef. He accordingly writes by M<sup>r</sup> Henderson on that Subject (to M<sup>r</sup> Archy Matthews I believe,) The Vein of lead at the Mine failed some time ago and all the lead there was sent to the Southern Army & to this place, so that at present there is not a Probability of getting a Pound there. They are using their best Efforts to find it again. Should they succeed it will be in our Power to help you to some.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN BOUSH AND MR. NICHOLAS PAYNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 256.*)

Mr John Boush & Nicholas Payne Deputy Commissioners of Brunswic & Spotsylvania.

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

William Parker Esqr Treasurer of South Carolina may probably have occasion for one or more waggons to carry the Papers and Packages of his office to such Place as he may find most convenient. You will be pleased to furnish him accordingly with such waggons as he shall have occasion for hiring them if practicable and if not then impressing them. You will settle with the Owners for their hire debiting the Continent therewith and taking a proper Certificate from M<sup>r</sup> Parker to vouch the Charge.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 257.*)

General Weedon

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Immediately on receipt of your Letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> by Cap<sup>t</sup>n Travis informing me of the loss of the Boat Patriot, We engaged Captain

<sup>317</sup>Colonel Andrew Donnally, county lieutenant of Greenbrier Co.



Travis to go over to Appomattox, where he procured another Boat (the Washington) said to be a better sailor than the Patriot; Being ready manned and equipped for sailing she receives orders to day to fall down and take your Commands.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CAPTAIN JOHN O'BANNON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 257.*)

Captain John OBannon

Sir,

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Your letter on the Subject of the Commission came duly to Hand but not having a Council it is out of my Power to have any Thing done with it. I somewhat question too whether if a permanent Commission be expected they would not suppose it necessary to have a resignation from Major Buckner himself, if only a Commission during the Continuance of your Men in the field be desired, such a Resignation might be dispensed with.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL OLIVER TOWLES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 257.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Oliver Towles

Sir,

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

The same very disagreeable intelligence which you have been pleased to communicate to me of the Operations of our savage Enemy on Potowmac has come to hand from several Parts of that River. Colo Skinker particularly had written on the subject of Arms. The Order I inclosed him tardy as the supply may be is the utmost it is in our power to do. From his letter we are to judge about a third of his Militia have Guns. These I suppose not to be very good, but they are unfortunately what we are obliged too generally to have Recourse to: the 200 Stand from Annapolis for which I gave him an Order are said to be very fine. The Defence of Hunters & the public Work at Fredericksburg are very important indeed, and I hope will be very particularly attended to by the adjacent Counties. No Intelligence from Portsmouth gives us Reason to believe that any regular forces have been sent on this expedition; so that we trust it is less formidable than some representations make it. The worst is that a Country vulnerable in every Point is open to insult and depredation to even the smallest force, yet important points may we trust be guarded, in effecting this we rely on your Exertions being added as we are assured they will be.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. SAMUEL COX.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 258.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Cox.

Sir,

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

I have received your Application on behalf of the Militia from the Counties of Loudoun & Fauquier and laid it before the members

of the Council present. We are sensible that the Circumstances of hardship therein described are just and have to lament that the Public situation should have called such hardships into Existence, but they must perceive that it will be vain for them to sow or plant and leave the enemy to reap. This will inevitably be the case unless opposition be made at the Threshold of our Country; Let the enemy once in and they add to their Strength whatever they take from us, and multiply our work if not render it desperate. We have at present no defence [to] rely on but the Militia and necessity has obliged us to fix their Tours to two Months from the time of their joining till they leave the Army.

We have called for reliefs from the Counties of Loudoun and Fauquier to be at Head Quarters by the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of May. To discharge the former before the Arrival of the latter you must be sensible would occasion a fluctuation of force which would expose the rest of the Army to certain Ruin; we must therefore require the Continuance of the present force from those two Counties until the arrival of their Reliefs from their respective Counties, only promising that they shall be discharged on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May should those reliefs be not then arrived. I must rely on the zeal and Activity of the officers from those two Counties (to whom you will be pleased to communicate this) to exert themselves in making their Men sensible how much their own Good and personal Ease constrains us to require that each Division shall perform its equal Tour.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JOHN SKINKER AND COL.  
WILLIAM GARRARD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 259.*)

Colonels Skinker & Garrard.<sup>318</sup>

Richmond April 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

I am exceedingly sorry to learn that the Enemy are committing such cruel depredations in your part of the Country; however it may tend to produce immoveable hatred against so detestable a nation and thereby strengthen our Union. Yet in the mean time it brings afflicting distress on Individuals and by diverting so great a Proportion of our force from their principal object leaves Achievements in their power which otherwise could not be.

We had thrown the whole Burthen of Militia duty on the Southern Counties leaving those to the North quiet till they should get through the raising of their new levies. That being done we have set the Southern Counties on the same Business and relied on our Northern Citizens to constitute the Opposition to the hostile army below. Thus deprived for two Months of the Aid of the Southern Counties and so many of the Northern like to be diverted, our Army is reduced to less than a third of the number of our Enemy who of Course may march wherever they please.

<sup>318</sup>Col. John Skinker was county lieutenant of King George and Col. William Garrard county lieutenant of Stafford.

Situated as you are we cannot say that the Men before called for must march at all events. We wish you to consider the above Circumstances and viewing at the same time your own situation, to determine yourself whether the force called for can be spared without endangering your part of the Country. Every part being equally within our Care we wish not to expose one for the defence of another. The very important Works at and near Fredericksburg we must recommend to your particular protection as also the saving all public Tobacco within your County.

Sir John Peyton for us purchased lately at Baltimore about 200 Stand of Arms from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Isaac and Adam Van Bibber and C<sup>o</sup>. They were brought to Annapolis in the vessels which brought on the Marquis Fayette's Detachment. Sir John Peyton has written to have them brought on by land, but he does not inform me to whom he has written. It is not in our Power to offer you any other supply of Arms but this. Were you to send a person in quest of these he would probably be able to meet with or find them out and have them forwarded to you. His reasonable Expenses and those of Transportation shall be paid by the Public and the Arms when you get them may be applied under your Care for the Defence of that part of the Country instead of the 150 formerly ordered which you have not received. I inclose you an order for these Arms.

N. B. In the letter to Col<sup>o</sup> Garrard omit last Paragraph.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES CALLAWAY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 260.*)

Colonel Callaway

Richmond April 16<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry that the Public situation has laid us under the cruel necessity of calling our Citizens from their homes at the interesting Season of planting their Crops. But an enemy strongly posted in our Country and another lately driven from us and ready and reinforced to return to the Charge unless strongly opposed have left us under the necessity indispensably of having militia out constantly from half the Counties in the State.

A Letter from General Greene of the 6<sup>th</sup> instant calls pressingly for Aids and we can send none but Militia till the late law is got through for raising New levies. Under this unfortunate Situation we are still constrained [to require] the marching of your Militia as formerly directed, and that they continue with General Greene till the last day of June, by which they shall be relieved from other Counties or should the Relief not get there by that day they shall be detained but one week longer waiting for it. It seems vain to plant & sow & leave the Enemy unopposed to reap. Besides I hope that the Peculiarity of the distress of those who are thus obliged to go away before planting their Corn will induce their neighbours to assemble and assist in the planting and performing other necessary offices in the plantation.

There never was juster Grounds for displaying a Public & neighbourly Spirit and for associating for this purpose. I should hope

every Captain would associate his Company for this Purpose, which being known to the People they will go the more cheerfully.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 261.*)

The Honble Richard Henry Lee

Richmond April 16<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

We are very sorry that it is out of our Power to furnish you with Cartridge paper and lead, the former Article has been entirely exhausted from our Magazines by the Southern and Eastern Armies. Your Express received 500 Flints and should have had Powder but that we think it better you should purchase the two or three barrels you propose and draw on the Executive for Payment which shall be made.

The returns of military Stores having been lost we do not know by recollection that there are either ball or grape-shot belonging to the Public at Fredericksburg: if there be and you can inform me of it and in the mean time prevail on the Person in whose Possession it is to deliver a proper quantity to you I will send him the Approbation of the Executive or if you can buy we will pay for it. Our last News from the South was of the sixth instant when Lord Cornwallis was near Wilmington and General Greene setting out on his march from Deep River for South Carolina.

Phillips commands in Portsmouth, his whole force 2500. I think you may rely from the Intelligence we have had that no land force from thence [is] in the vessels which are distressing at Potowmac.

P. S. The Advertisement shall be published.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. GEORGE BIRD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 261.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> George Bird <sup>319</sup>

Richmond April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Your favor of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant has come to hand. M<sup>r</sup> Brown has orders on the Commissioners of the specific Tax for all the grain they shall receive. I should suppose that in strictness he could not be authorized to receive it but from the[m] however as it may be a mutual advantage to the People and Public to feed Beeves for the Army at the Planters farms it would seem best to accomodate this point to him, relying that he or his Agents will pay due Attention to prevent the Public from Impositions and to redress them where they take place.

<sup>319</sup>Colonel George Bird was commissioner for the collection of the specific taxes in Middlesex County.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL MUHLENBERG.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 262.*)

General Muhlenburg

Richmond April 16<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I have duly received the letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst from M<sup>r</sup> Constable written by Command from you and am sorry to hear of your Indisposition which I hope this will find you relieved from. I expect 350 men from Culpeper have joined you before this Date. They are to continue till the 14<sup>th</sup> of June.

The Militia from Frederic, Hampshire, Berkeley, Shenandoah, Orange and Louisa ought now to be coming in and are to continue till the last of June with a right to retain them a week longer to await Reliefs.

We have by letters sent by Express yesterday called Militia as follows Fauquier 252, Loudoun 407, Caroline 245, Albemarle 204, Fluvanna 70, Goochland 89, Henrico about 100 who are required to be in the field May 1<sup>st</sup> and to continue there till the last day of June or 7<sup>th</sup> of July if the reliefs should not arrive sooner. We are thus endeavouring to get our Militia to a fixed term of 2 Months in the Field to be relieved all together between this & the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. I cannot but apprehend dangers which are not in our power to prevent. So slow are the Militia in moving that none newly called could be expected sooner than those from Frederick, Hampshire, Berkeley, Shenandoah, Orange & Louisa who were called for March 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Embarkation from New York under Sir Harry Clinton is pretty certainly known to be destined to take post at New Castle on Delaware.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID JAMESON.

(*From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," III, 13.*)

David Jamieson

Apr. 16, 1781.

Sir,

The day is so very bad that I hardly expect a Council and there being nothing that I know of pressing, and Mrs Jefferson in a situation in which I would not wish to leave her,<sup>320</sup> I shall not attend today.

Should there be a board this case requires immediate attention. The Court of Albemarle on the resignation of John Coles, County Lieutenant & Nicholas Lewis Cole have passed by Reuben Lindsay who was Lt. Col. and a man of as much worth as any in the County, & of a temper fit for conciliating the minds of the people to the many harsh calls now made upon them, and have recommended (as report sais) John Marks to be County Lieut. who was formerly a junior captain & retired, not possessing an inch of property in the County or other means of obtaining influence over the people, and of a temper

<sup>320</sup>Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson had lost an infant by death at 1 A. M. on the 15th of April. Mrs. Jefferson herself died not many months after this.

so ungovernable that instead of reconciling he will by his manner of executing revolt the minds of the people against the calls of government, and produce mutinies & difficulties when others would go through smoothly. As our power of redressing depends on our taking the Start, I would recommend if there be a board, the enclosed resolution. I do not know who are the two eldest captains. Reuben Lindsay I know is the Lt. Colo. and Chas Selburne Lewis the Major.

N. B.— The board, should there be one, can form their resolution without my being present. If the Commissions can be sent to me I can forward them to-day.

John Coles, County Lieutenant & Nicholas Lewis Cole, of Albemarle having resigned their commissions, the board advise that Reuben Lindsay the present Lt. Colo. be appointed County Lieutenant and Charles Selburne Lewis the present Major be appointed Colo. of the Militia of said County.<sup>321</sup>

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WEEDON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 262.*)

To General Weedon

Sir,

In Council April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Before the Receipt of your Favour of the 11th, Major General Baron Steuben had through Col<sup>o</sup> Senf communicated to me one from you to him on the same Subject with his opinion in which we concurred, that before Men to be marched from Williamsburg could possibly get to Fredericksburg the enterprize if meditated by the Enemy would be over, and that it would be impolitic to let them see that detachments of this kind might break off our main Army. I hope the Militia on Potowmac and Rappahannock will be ready to receive the Enemy, who if we may trust our Intelligence have no regulars from Portsmouth with them. The Militia from Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William and Fairfax are to remain in the field till the 7<sup>th</sup> of May unless sooner relieved, those of Loudoun and Fauquier by Men from their own Counties, and those of Prince William and Fairfax from other Counties called on to be in the Field by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May.

By the same day we have called for a general force which we mean shall remain two Months in the field and thenceforth to relieve regularly once in two Months, reserving the right to keep the men a week longer than their two Months in Case the Reliefs should not be come in. Orders are given for purchasing the powder and lead from M<sup>r</sup> Beall, and the latter Article particularly we are desirous of getting wherever to be found.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. BEVERLEY WINSLOW.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 263.*)

Colo Bev<sup>y</sup> Winslow<sup>322</sup>

Sir,

In Council April 17<sup>th</sup> 1781.

The Clothing to be furnished from the several Counties was by a general regulation to be delivered to the Officer stationed at the

<sup>321</sup>This last paragraph is, of course, the resolution that Jefferson wished adopted. This letter is not in the letter book.

<sup>322</sup>County lieutenant of Spotsylvania County.

Rendezvous for receiving the recruits. You are hereby authorized to call a Court Martial for enquiring into any Conduct of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Nicholas Lewis which may render him obnoxious to the military rules. It would have been more agreeable had you stated the Charge particularly to us.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED, OF  
PENNSYLVANIA.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 263.*)

President Reid

In Council April 17<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

I have been honoured with your Excellency's letter proposing the actual extension of our mutual boundary. I presume therefore that the propositions contained in the Resolutions of our Assembly of                    which I had the honour to communicate to your Excellency have been approved by your State and that the Boundaries are to be run on the principles therein proposed. No mode of determining the extent of the five degrees of longitude from Delaware river in the latitude of Mason & Dixon's line having been pointed out by your Excellency I shall venture to propose that this be determined by Astronomical Observations to be made at or near the two extremities of the line as being in our opinion the most certain and unexceptionable mode of determining that point which being fixed every thing else will be easy. Should this mode be approved by your Excellency we have appointed the Rev<sup>d</sup> James Madison as a Commissioner on our part to execute the work in the Western Quarter and the Rev<sup>d</sup> Robert Andrews to perform the office at the Eastern end in Conjunction with the Gentlemen whom you have been pleased to appoint or any others on your part. To those before named we shall add an Associate each that the work may not be retarded or frustrated by the Sickness of one.

We will send to the Westward the most necessary Instruments which we suppose to be a good time piece, Telescope and a transit Instrument and hope it will be convenient for you to furnish what may be necessary at the Eastern End; Our Commissioners will attend at their respective Stations at any time which your Excellency shall think proper to appoint allowing it to be a month after I shall have received your pleasure on that head.

I will observe to your Excellency that the resolutions of our Assembly after laying down the principles on which the boundaries were to be extended gave full powers to the Executive as to time manner and all other Circumstances so that there will be no necessity of awaiting their meeting to lay before them the resolutions of your Council as desired in your Letter of February 26<sup>th</sup>.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL WILLIAM CHRISTIAN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 264.)*Col<sup>o</sup> ChristianIn Council April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1781.*Sir,*

Your favour of the 10<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> has come duly to hand. At the time we desired to set on foot the negotiations for peace with the Cherokees we were uninformed of the measures General Greene had taken for that purpose. We think it better that the treaty should be prosecuted on his plan and under his Authority which will bind the United States generally and therefore chearfully withdraw the powers we had given on that Subject and which might otherwise disturb the Operation of those from General Greene.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. ARTHUR CAMPBELL.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 265.)*

Colo Arthur Campbell

In Council April 17<sup>th</sup> 1781.*Sir,*

We are sorry it is not in our power to send you the Commissions desired for two Sets of Field Officers. The Act of Assembly allows this only where there are 1,000 Militia in a County and the last Return from yours makes them only 829.

Should they be increased to the number required by Law we shall be glad on receiving a return thereof to issue the Commissions desired.

Captain Kincaid received from us a warrant for £5000 to be applied to the necessary uses of the Company in Powells valley.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO PRESIDENT REED.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 265.)*

President Reid

In Council April 18<sup>th</sup> 1781.*Sir,*

I have had the pleasure to receive your Excellency's favour of March 27<sup>th</sup> and am to return you our sincere thanks for your Interposition in favour of the Operations carrying on by General Clarke; operations which I hope will result equally to the benefit of yours as of our State and which if successful will give us future quiet in our Western quarter. I beg you to be assured that Col<sup>o</sup> Broadhead has been altogether misinformed as to any restriction having been laid on a M<sup>r</sup> Wilson or any other Person in purchasing within the State Cattle for the use of Fort Pitt, or that if such a restriction actually took Place, it was a private Act in those who presumed to impose it unauthorised by government, and which would have been censured and rectified had it been made known. We are so sensible what would result from such a line of Conduct and so sincerely disposed to render the union of the States more perfect, that we shall on all



occasions endeavour to render to our neighbours every friendly office which Circumstances shall bring within the Compass of our powers.

I am further to thank your Excellency for the kind dispositions you entertain & the Aids you were pleased to render to the expedition under the Marquis Fayette which was intended for the immediate relief of this State in particular as well as for those furnished to General Greene for the Southern Service in general.

Such is the present Aspect of the war that it does not seem very probably its Circumstances should be so reversed as to place us in a Situation of returning the favour in kind, however we trust that while the Contest was Northwardly our Contributions of Men Arms and other necessaries were such as to prove we should not be wanting to our friends under a Change of Circumstances.

With Respect to your State particularly we shall take very great pleasure in cultivating every disposition to harmony and mutual Aid. That policy would be very unsound which should build our Interest or happiness on anything inconsistent with yours.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 266.*)

President of Congress

In Council April 18<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I was honoured yesterday with your Excellency's favor inclosing the resolutions of Congress of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant for removing Stores and Provisions from the Counties of Accomack and Northampton. We have there no military Stores except a few muskets in the hands of the Militia. There are some Collections of Forage and provisions belonging to the Continent & some to the State, and the country there generally furnishes an abundance of Forage, but such is the present Condition of Chesapeake bay that we cannot even get an advice boat across it with any certainty much less adventure on transportation. Should however any Interval happen in which these Articles may be withdrawn we shall certainly avail ourselves of it and bring thence whatever we can.

If I have been rightly informed the Horses there are by no means such that the enemy could apply them to the purposes of Cavalry. Some large enough for the Draught may perhaps be found, but of these not many.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JOHN PAGE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 267.*)

John Page, Esqr.

In Council April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 13<sup>th</sup> desiring a suspension of the Act for raising New Levies has been duly received and laid before the board.

They think they cannot with any propriety suspend an Act after the Terms are all past by which it should have been carried into execution. It would only answer the end of a remission of Penalties which would be an Abuse of the suspending Power given them by the latter Act. The Circumstances which produced that Law were that the militia of half the State had been called from their Counties on the invasion on very distant and long Services.

The neglect of the Commissioners which has prevented the Assessment from being returned is a reason which as it did not enter the Ideas of the legislature could by no means justify us in suspending the law. Under these Circumstances I should suppose it best to take up the law as soon as they shall have done their duty and get through it as soon as you can.

The Men are exceedingly wanting indeed and if not produced generally as we had a right to expect it will be impossible for us to enable Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene to prevent his Antagonist from tredding back his Steps.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM CALL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 267.*)

Colonel Call

In Council April 18<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

We are so exceedingly anxious to get the work at Hoods complete that we will make the proposition to the militia of your County in the form you propose; that is to say every man of your County who will go himself or send an able labourer to work at Hoods twelve days between this time and the sixth of May carrying with him an Axe & a Spade if he has one or if he has no Spade then a hough in lieu of it shall have six weeks Credit in his next Tour of Duty out of the County, and the County shall not be called on for others in lieu thereof. We expect the ten days labour to be completed within the Term before mentioned so that they must begin by the 22<sup>d</sup> instant at furthest. That we may be perfectly understood I will State a Case: Suppose we call on your County hereafter for 95 Militia to go on Service out of the County, you will then of Course, mark off the 95 who stand next on your roll of Service. On examining their names you find that 50 of them have performed the twelve Days labour at Hoods above required, we shall expect then that only the remaining 45 shall go and we will not require the deficiency to be made good. To explain it still further, if the first tour on which these men are called shall keep the party but four weeks upon the next Call they shall be considered as under furlough 'till the balance of two weeks is made up.

Rations will be furnished them there and they must carry their own bedding and Arms as desired in my letter of the 12<sup>th</sup>. I must also now as I did then desire a return of the proportion of your Militia who will have exempted themselves for the above Term from being called out of the County and exclude from the proposition any of those last called on to join Gen<sup>l</sup> Muhlenburg.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
HENRICO, PRINCE GEORGE, AND DINWIDDIE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 268.*)

County Lieutenants of Henrico, Prince George & Dinwiddie.

Richmond April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Having received Intelligence that the Enemy are in Motion up James River and that their vessels were in sight of Burwells ferry yesterday afternoon, & their destination being as yet unknown, we think it necessary to require you to assemble every man of your County able to bear Arms immediately to repair with proper officers and the best Arms he has to \* and that they do not wait to come altogether, but repair here in parties as they can be collected. Former experience will I hope induce a more prompt Attendance on this Occasion.

\*Henrico.....Richmond

Prince Geo. & Dinwiddie.....Petersburg.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
GOOCHLAND, HANOVER, AND POWHATAN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 269.*)

County Lieutenants of Goochland, Hanover & Powhatan.

Richmond April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Having &c. as in the preceding letter to the Co<sup>ty</sup> L<sup>ts</sup> of Henrico &c.)

Should a very rapid movement of the enemy render this place unsafe as a Rendezvous you will then consider the Manakin town ferry as the place of Rendezvous.

Goochland & Hanover.....Richmond

Powhatan.....Manchester.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
CUMBERLAND AND AMELIA.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 269.*)

County Lieutenants of Cumberland & Amelia.

Richmond April 19<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Having &c. as in the preceding letters except as to the number one half instead of the whole.

Should a very rapid movement of the Enemy render the rendezvous above named unsafe you will then consider as the place.

Cumberland. Manchester & Manakin Town ferry

Amelia. Petersburg & lower Part of the County on Appomattox river.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
HENRICO.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 269.*)

County Lieutenant of Henrico.

Richmond April 19<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

It being possible that the enemy may be destined for this place we have advised the Auditors, Treasurer, Register, Clerks of the Assembly, Chancery and General Court, the Clothier and Commissary of Naval Stores to prepare their Papers &c. for Removal. The same is doing with the Papers of the Council, War and Navy Office. As no persons can do this but the Clerks of those Offices and their presence with the Papers will be necessary on their Removal, you will be pleased to consider them as permitted by me to attend to those Duties & not to embody with the Militia of the County.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
CHESTERFIELD.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 270.*)

County Lieutenant of Chesterfield.

Richmond April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir,*

Having &c. (as in the letter to the Co<sup>ty</sup> L<sup>ts</sup> of Henrico, P. Geo. & et al.)

Petersburg & Manchester }  
the Rendezvous..... }

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 270.*)

Baron Steuben

Richmond April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir,*

I send you herewith a State of the Militia required to come into the field in which is not comprehended any at present there except those of Culpeper who having passed Hanover Courthouse about the 10<sup>th</sup> are supposed to have joined Gen<sup>l</sup> Muhlenburg some time ago.

We are endeavouring to get our Militia to the fixed Term of two Months in the field with a right to detain them one week longer should reliefs be not come in. Whenever those Militia arrive which are called for as by this list so many of those now in Service who can be spared may be dismissed and first those of the Counties which have not yet gone through their Draught.

Applications to raise horse were made as was concluded in your presence in Council. I have received an Answer from one of them only, Cap<sup>t</sup> Mosby, who had then raised 36 with whom he would be in Petersburg on Monday next. They will most of them he say[s] want Arms.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS STATE OFFICERS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 271.*)

To the Treasurer, Register of the land office, Auditors, Commissioners of the Navy, Clerks of the Assembly, General Court & Court of Chancery.

In Council April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

We have received advice this morning that the enemy were in motion up James river in eleven vessels most of them square rigged, the foremost of which was in the afternoon of yesterday within sight from Burwells ferry.

Their destination being unknown to us & possibly for this Place we thought it our duty to give you notice of the above, as you may think it advisable to prepare the papers & other valuable moveable things of your office for removal. It is not in our power to say we can certainly furnish you with waggons for their removal & would therefore advise your best Endeavours to procure them yourselves. Nevertheless whatever Aid we can furnish shall undoubtedly be furnished to the several Officers.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COMMODORE JAMES BARRON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 271.*)

Commodore Barron

In Council April 20<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

You will be so good as to furnish to the American Officer appointed to conduct the British flag General de Riedesel up Potowmac to George Town with a pilot acquainted with that Navigation.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 271.*)

Baron Steben

In Council April 20<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I take the liberty of inclosing to you a Letter to Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Phillip with the determination of the board of war as to the British flag vessel with necessaries for the Convention prisoners which I will ask the favor of your to forward by flag.

I presume it is necessary Prudence to put an officer & pilot of our own on Board. This has been the practice here and if you approve of it you will be so good as to appoint an Officer to this Service. The inclosed Letter to Commodore Barron the Officer will take with him for the Purpose of obtaining a pilot. I inclose you Copies of Letters which have this moment come to hand. We can arm about 200 Militia here, the rest must depend on the Arms which have been given in by the discharged Militia. You will be so good as to give

orders on this Subject, accomodated to the several places of their Rendezvous, and determining whether the Arms shall be brought to the Men or they marched to the Arms.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GEN. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 272.)*

General Clarke

Richmond April 20<sup>th</sup> 1781

*Sir,*

I am happy to find that you are persevering thro' your difficulties and hope it will have a fortunate Issue. I think not only our future quiet to the Westward but Eastern Events depend much on your Success. The enemy at Portsmouth have received since you were here a reinforcement of 1500 Men under Major General Phillips. They are at this time under way up James river but to what place destined we know not.

The Bills mentioned in your Letter are paid on your Counter-signature. We lately had a great bundle of draughts from Col<sup>o</sup> Montgomery; They were rejected and the holder informed that if he would satisfy you they were for articles or Services realiy for the State, you would countersign and we pay them according to their true value at the time of drawing.

You will have received the £200,000 sent you by Captain Cherry.

We now send Major Harrison £300,000 by L Bradford. All the Stores have gone which were to go for you from this place. A Delay was occasioned to the March of the Greenbrier Militia by an Error in sending some Articles hence to Frederic which should have gone to Fort Chiswell, however they will be in time I hope for the Movements from Fort Pitt.

I have just received a Letter from the President of Pensylvania informing me that on learning that Col<sup>o</sup> Broadhead had restrained some purchases within their Limits for your Troops he had immediately given orders to have the Restrictions taken off and that none such should be laid on any future Occasion. I hope that an equal liberality on both Sides will facilitate the future operation of both Governments. I wish you every Success & happiness. &c.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL PHILLIPS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 273.)*

Major General Phillips

In Council Richmond April 20<sup>th</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

I have this moment received a letter from the board of War at Philadelphia from which the inclosed is extracted, being so much thereof as related to the flag Gen<sup>l</sup> de Riedesel. The general directions of the Board of war seem to include a dissent to Capt<sup>n</sup> Gerlach's Application for permission to New York by Land and to Lieutenant de Harstalls to visit the Officers of Convention. If there be any

other Indulgencies not inconsistent with these general Directions or those Cautions which a State of war will not dispense with, we shall be happy in allowing them. An Officer will be appointed by Major General Baron Steuben to go on board the flag & remain with her till her return to Portsmouth as well as a pilot of our own.

I referred also the letter I had the honor of receiving from you in Answer to my Application for passports for some Tobacco vessels to go to Charlestown, to Barron Steuben with whom you proposed to settle the necessary regulations. I shall be happy to have these settled as soon as possible, as our officers and Souldiers there are suffering the most real Distress.

P. S. The German troops of Convention are at present at Winchester in this State.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR WILLIAM HARRISON.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 273.)

Mr William Harrison

Richmond April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Lieutenant Bradford brings out three hundred thousand Pounds for you. Two hundred thousand had been sent by Capt<sup>a</sup> Cherry to Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarke just before. Whether he will be able to spare any of that to you I know not. We had it not in our power to send more at this time. I had inquiry made at the Auditors Office whether Capt<sup>a</sup> Berry had obtained any Warrant for Money there & found he had not.<sup>323</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM PRESTON.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 274.)

Colo Preston.

In Council April 21<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Your favor of the 13<sup>th</sup> is come duly to Hand. We consent to the dividing your Militia into two battalions and will send you Commissions for a second Set of field Officers when ever you will forward to me the Courts Recommendations.

Having been obliged by a movement of the Enemy up James River to pack up all our papers for removal, I am unable to send you the blank Commissions desired. They shall be sent by the next opportunity. I inclose you an order for 500 lbs of powder and 500 Flints.

I hope your Militia will have gone to the Southward as formerly directed and that this will be the last Call on them to go Southwardly while Things remain under their present Aspect. As soon as the

<sup>323</sup> Information relative to Major Harrison (captured by the Indians at Crawford's defeat, in 1732, and killed), Lieutenant Charles Bradford, Captain William Cherry, and Captain George Berry is to be found in Kellogg's "Frontier Advance on the Upper Ohio" and her "Frontier Retreat on the Upper Ohio." Consult the indexes.

regulars can be raised under the late Act, which is done or doing in all the Counties except eleven which with yours were required to aid General Greene. These Regulars will proceed to the Southward and we shall carry on the war in our Country with Militia.

I am obliged to you for the Narrative of your Proceedings to the Southward. It was certainly not only justifiable but laudable and even indispensably necessary that you should have proceeded as you did to oppose the public Enemy without orders from Government which it would have been fatal to have awaited. This Case is expressly provided for in the Invasion Law. This Narrative was not necessary with us for your personal Justification.

I wish it were possible for you to enlist a Guard for a twelvemonth for the lead Mines, to receive the pay and rations of regular Souldiers. If this cannot be done we must still leave it on your Militia till we can get a regular Guard to send up.

# GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES INNES.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 275.)*

Col<sup>o</sup> Innes

Richmond April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

*Sir,*

Within an hour after receiving your first Notification that the enemy were in movement we issued Orders to the militia of the Counties of Chesterfield, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Powhatan, Goochland, Hanover & Henrico to assemble immediately every Man able to bear Arms, and one half of those of Amelia & Cumberland and to bring with them the best Arms they had. They were to rendezvous at Petersburg and this place. Some volunteer Cavalry were also called for. These Orders were communicated to Baron Steuben and the several letters of Information from you have been regularly & immediately forwarded to him. And I doubt not the moment the Militia come in and can receive (such as are unarmed) the Spare Arms from the Southside of the River he will order them to your Assistance, now that it appears that yours is the Post of their destination.

Tho' our Orders for calling the Militia went out on Thursday Morning not a Man is yet assembled here. I am told the Powhatan Militia will be in to day. Certainly those of this County will be as early. This fatal Tardiness will I fear be as unfortunate for Williamsburg on this Occasion as formerly it was for Richmond.

Be assured that no effort of ours for your Support shall be wanting and that the Resources of the Country as our powers will call them forth shall be applied to the Relief of the part threatened. I must entreat you to let us hear from you daily while the Scene is so interesting.

P. S.

You observe we say nothing of the militia of the Counties near Williamsburg because we supposed you would of Course call for as many as you could arm.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL ROBERT WOODING.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 276.*)

Colo Robert Wooding.<sup>324</sup>

In Council April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

The Prisoners of war should properly come addressed to yourself— as County Lieutenant, the office of guarding and conducting them being of a military and not civil nature. I shall therefore be pleased to observe that there is in every County a Deputy Commissary to whom it will be proper for you to address orders for the supply of provisions as the prisoners and guards proceed. What cannot be conveniently got from these Commissaries, must be impressed as directed in the Invasion Law.

This Duty may perhaps be fairly enough considered as a Tour, as I suppose it generally [to] be a march of a Month. You will be pleased to observe that there is in every County a Deputy Commissary to whom it will be proper for you to address orders for the supply of provisions as the prisoners and guards proceed. What cannot be conveniently got from these Commissaries, must be impressed as directed in the Invasion Law.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JOHN SYME.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 276.*)

Colo Syme

In Council April 21<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Question you propose, whether the second Set of Field Officers be discontinued on the Reduction of the numbers of your Militia below the legal Number for two Battalions is really difficult. We certainly shall not give any new Commissions after this, but whether the former ones are vacated or we the proper Judges to determine on it, we cannot at present say. Any Militia necessary for the Removal of Stores you are at liberty to keep, when they shall have done that they must proceed their Tour, with the Army if it be necessary. The Enemy landed yesterday at Burwells Ferry, and James town, Col<sup>o</sup> Innes retreated to Allen's Ordinary.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL BENAJMIN HARRISON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 277.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Benjamin Harrison

In Council April 22<sup>d</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

We thought it best as I informed you in a former letter to call into service on this occasion the Militia whose families and property were not immediately exposed. Being circumscribed in our number

<sup>324</sup>County lieutenant of Halifax County.

of Arms it still appears best, that what we have should be put into the hands of those Militia. Were we to send any to Charles City, we must dismiss so many Militia now collected here, and at Manchester; Experience has also shewn it preferable for another Reason to put your Arms into the hands of those not exposed, because on the Enemy's coming into the exposed parts of the Country, the Militia of the Neighbourhood will desert, carry off their Arms, and perhaps suffer them to be taken off by the Enemy, we therefore think to retain the Militia collected & collecting here, who we expect every moment will receive marching orders from Baron Steuben, & that yours should be permitted to take Care of their families & property.

I am informed the Enemy have got possession of the Shipyard and that by the most unaccountable Inattention the Lewis & Safe-guard Gallies have withdrawn up Chickahominy instead of James River.

### GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 277.*)

Baron Steuben

In Council. April 22<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I inclose you two Letters just received from Col<sup>o</sup> Innes. We are in great Anxiety for him. His force, we are told is very considerably reduced by Desertion and he has no Cavalry. I make no doubt you see how far it is necessary to send him Reinforcements & will order them accordingly. I have no return of the numbers of Militia here; indeed it is changing every hour by the Arrival of others; Report makes them three or four hundred at this Place and Manchester; The new raised Cavalry or a due proportion of it may perhaps be of singular value to him.

We have determined to remove our Armourer's Shop to the Fork of James River immediately. Col<sup>o</sup> Davies expects they will be [at] work, there within ten Days and that he shall be able to procure a very considerable number of hands there. Considering the greater Security of that place than Powhatan Courthouse and the little probability from General Muhlenburgs Letter of removing the Armourers from Broadwater, perhaps you will think it better that our Armourers should all be employed together at the Fork under Col<sup>o</sup> Davies's Direction than to send any part of them to Powhatan Courthouse.

We made a proposition to the Militia of Prince George, which we had reason to believe would have effected the immediate Completion of the Work at Hoods, it was that every Man of that County who would go or send an able Labourer to work there 12 Days should have six weeks Credit on his Tours of Duty out of the County; unfortunately the movements of the Enemy obliged us the very next Day to call every Man into the field. Nevertheless if you think it more important you will be pleased to permit such of them to quit the Field, as chuse to comply with the proposition. One Caution may perhaps be necessary; that is to order those Militia to a separate position from that of the other Counties, lest the restraining the Offer

to the Militia of Prince George might produce an Idea of partiality and give dissatisfaction to the Rest. One County will suffice for the Execution of this Work & it would be improvident to make the proposition to more.

I enclose you some Intelligence which at this time of depression we thought it would be well to put in hand Bills and communicate to both Armies. I send a parcel to Col<sup>o</sup> Innes's and trouble you with those for General Muhlenburg's.

I received a Letter from the Marquis Fayette to-day dated Baltimore April 17<sup>th</sup> he was then coming on by forced Marches for Virginia.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL SAMUEL McDOWELL.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 278.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Samuel McDowell<sup>325</sup>

In Council April 23<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> has been considered by the Board. We are exceedingly sorry that the Militia Service of necessity falls so heavily on the Citizens of our State & would gladly embrace every Opportunity of relaxing it. All we can do however is to keep this Burthen as equal as possible on all the Counties. We keep an Account of all the Tours required by us and the proportions of Men: On view of this it did not appear that your County had been called on more frequently than others. However, in the State you send it appears that they have had one Tour more than the other Counties, (which tho' not ordered by us and therefore unknown & unnoted we yet approve of) and on this Consideration dispense with their going to General Greene on the present Occasion.

This Call having been the Cause of our suspending the Act of October 1780 for raising new Levies, on revoking it, we think it necessary to take off that Suspension and to require that you now proceed in the Execution of that Act.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES INNES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 279.*)

Colo. Innes

Richmond April 22<sup>d</sup>, 1781  
8 o'clock P M.

Dear Sir,

Your favours of yesterday and today came to hand about an hour ago. I am equally astonished and concerned to hear of your sufferings for provision. We will send off four waggons tomorrow with Flour, animal food & Spirit. I inclose you two impressing Warrants to obtain the means of transporting provisions to your Army and if you will let me know the number of waggons and Carts now belonging to your Corps & what addition is necessary we will endeavour to supply you. I am in hopes you will give orders to M<sup>r</sup>

<sup>325</sup>Colonel of Rockbridge County militia.

Brown (who I expect is with you) to provide small magazines of provisions at such places as you shall think proper.

I would willingly have extended the impressing powers to horses for Troopers but that measure on former Occasions has given such Disgust as to induce me to avoid it. There is a Body of Militia Cavalry forming. About sixty are said to be already collected at Manchester who with the Infantry there and here (about 400) will I expect receive immediate Order from Baron Steuben, to join you. This is the fourth Day since the Orders for calling in the Militia were issued and those are the whole yet assembled at this place and Manchester.

The Account of the Arrival of the second Division of the French Fleet having been published here in a hand Bill I inclose you a number to be circulated among your troops.

I had a Letter [to] Day from the Marquis Fayette dated Baltimore April 17<sup>th</sup> in which he informed me he is hastening on by forced Marches to Virginia.

#### GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 280.)*

Marquis La Fayette

Richmond April 23d, 1781.

*Sir,*

I had the pleasure yesterday to receive your favor of the 17th inst. and am very happy that the Southern States are to have the Benefit of your Aid. On the 18<sup>th</sup> inst the enemy came from Portsmouth &c. (as in the following Letter to the President of Congress to the words Little River on the 11th.) we still consider his as the interesting Scene of action to us as long as we can keep him superior to his Antagonist we have little to fear in this Country. Whenever he shall be obliged to retire before Lord Cornwallis & to bring him als[o] into this State our Situation will become dangerous.

North as well as South Carolina being once in the Hands of the Enemy may become the Instruments of our Subjugation and effect what the Enemy themselves cannot. The British force may harrass & distress us greatly but the Carolina's alone can subdue us. The Militia of North Carolina is very nearly as numerous as that of this State. Out of that our Enemy will be able to raise great Armies. We therefore think it our first Interest to keep them under in that Quarter, considering the war in our own Country but as a secondary Object

For this Reason we mean to send our new Levies for the regular Army to General Greene as fast as they shall be raised, acting with our Militia on the Defensive only in this State.

I shall do myself the pleasure of communicating further to you the future movements of the Enemy with us and Occurrences to the Southward also as far as they shall become known to me.



GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS &  
GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 280.*)

President of Congress & General Washington

Richmond April 23<sup>d</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

On the 18<sup>th</sup> instant the Enemy came from Portsmouth up James river in considerable force tho their numbers precisely are not yet known to us. They landed at Burwells ferry below Williamsburg and near the Mouth of Chickahominy above it. This latter Circumstance obliged Col<sup>o</sup> Innes who commanded a body of Militia stationed on that Side the River to cover the Country from Depredation, to retire upwards lest he should be placed between their two Bodies. One of those entered Williamsburg on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the other proceeded to a Shipyard we had on Chickahominy. What Injury they have done there I am not yet informed. I take for granted they have burnt an unfinished 20 Gun Ship we had there: Such of the Stores belonging to the yard as were moveable had been carried some Miles higher up the river. Two small Gallies als[o] retired up the River. Whether by this either the Stores or Gallies were saved is yet unknown. I am just informed from a private hand that they left Williamsburg early yesterday morning. If this sudden Departure was not in Consequence of some Circumstance of Alarm unknown to us, their expedition to Williamsburg has been unaccountable.

There were no public Stores there but those which were necessary for the daily use of the Men stationed there.

Where they mean to descend next the event alone can Determine. Besides harrassing our Militia with this kind of war: Their being taken from their Farms at the interesting Season of planting their Corn will have an unfortunate effect on the Crop of the ensuing Year.

I have heard nothing certain of General Greene since the Sixth instant except that his head quarters were on Little River on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF  
WAR.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 281.*)

President of the Board of War.

In Council April 23<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

Col<sup>o</sup> Wood has applied to us to take Measures for furnishing provisions & building Barracks for the Convention Prisoners at Winchester. Neither of those can be effected without considerable Sums of Money either advanced or to be paid within some reasonable Time and I am sorry to be obliged to inform you it is not in our power to do either. Such are the Calls on us for Money for the Southern Army & for the Army in our Country that our Efforts are exhausted in complying with a part only of these, and I am firmly persuaded that could our Advances & Exertions for the Continent be stated to you, you

would be sensible that no Call either for Men Money or provisions on Account of those Prisoners should be made on us. While we were in tolerable Quiet and our neighbours under Difficulties we chearfully took on us the Support and guard of these Troops: but when we have a war on our Western, Southern and Eastern quarters which keeps our Existence in daily question we cannot withdraw from that a single exertion, nor deceive you by giving you a hope of our being able to support those Prisoners in which we should surely fail.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM DAVIES.

(From "*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*," II, 67.)

In Council Apr. 23. 1781.

Colo. Innes' information being that the army under his command is in the utmost distress for provisions we must suppose it [a] fact and therefore should think it necessary to send him the four waggons of provisions as promised him: & the rather because of our having promised it it does not seem credible he should have crossed at Ruffins—

We approve of sending a person to collect the arms about the barracks & that money be furnished.

Expecting every moment to hear of the movements of the enemy & that this will determine whether a removal of the public papers be necessary, we postpone giving any orders about the waggons at the Several Offices.<sup>326</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL DAVID FISHER.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 282.)

Colo Fisher,<sup>327</sup>

Richmond April 24<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Your Letter was handed me at a Time when I was much engaged in preparing to render a visit then expected from the Enemy as little prejudicial as possible. The Act of Assembly having not exempted the Commissaries from Militia Duty, We do not chuse to give them a formal Exemption. Yet their Exertions are so essential for subsisting the Army when assembled that it is impossible for them to be better employed & we should certainly consider a commanding Officer as in the right who should view their Services as of an actual military nature. Indeed the Staff is as much a part of an Army as the Line & they seem to be in the constant performance of a Tour.

I inclose you a Letter of March 30th an extract from another & a dozen blank Commissions.

<sup>326</sup>This letter is written on back of a letter from Col. Davies, giving information as to Col. Innes's movements, etc.

Ruffin's Ferry was over the Pamunkey River. Col. Innes had gotten to the north of that river.

<sup>327</sup>Col. David Fisher was county lieutenant of Greensville County—formed in Nov. 1780.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

(From Ford's "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," III, 23.)

Major-General Baron Steuben

Richmond, April 24th, 1-2 past 7 A. M.

Sir,—

I have information this morning from Capt. Maxwell on his own view that the Enemy landed at Westover yesterday evening. If it be impossible that he should have been deceived, it is equally unaccountable that we are uninformed of it from the Videts sent. The movements of the Enemy up Chickataming [Chickahominy] obliged Col. Innes, incumbered with 20 Waggons with stores, and 100 sick, to cross Pamunkey at Ruffens Ferry: as soon as he has disposed of those, he will endeavour, if the movements of the Enemy render it proper, to retire towards this place; There are here about 200 Militia armed, and 300 unarmed, at Manchester there is I am told a larger number armed, but of this I have no proper information. The Militia of several Counties being here, I gave Col. Wood the command 'till you should be able to have them arranged as you should choose. He happened to be here on business, and it will be inconvenient to him to continue any time. Can the object of the Enemy be our Vessels at Osbornes? There are no public Stores *here*, and they have shewed that private depredation is not within their views.

Col. Southall shewed to Col. Wood and myself, your Orders of yesterday for the Militia to divide into two parties and go to the Long Bridge, and Turkey Isld. and to correspond with Col. Innes. But the Enemy having as is supposed landed at Westover, and Col. Innes crossed Pamunkey; it was thought advisable, that Col. Wood should await your orders on those new circumstances, supposed to be unknown to you at the date of your order. As soon as it is known that the Enemy are landed at Westover, and my presence here no longer necessary I shall cross the river either here or at Tuckahoe and keep in the neighbourhood on the other side. I shall be ready and happy to give you every aid from the civil power which may be necessary.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO LIEUTENANT EDMUND REED.

(From *Executive Letter Book*, 1781, p. 282.)

Lieutenant Reed,

Richmond April 26th, 1781.

Sir,

I have advised with the Members of the Council present and they are of Opinion that Captn Reed be permitted to purchase four horses for his Troop instead of the four which were to have been purchased by the Quarter Master & one other instead of the one lately dead, governing himself by the price limited in the Order to the Quarter Master.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 2.)*

Baron Steuben

Richmond April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,— One half the Cumberland Militia, and of those of Amelia, were ordered down. Some of the former have come in, I have ordered them to go to you, but what should be done with such of them as have no Arms I think doubtful.

We have found by Experience that the men of those Counties where the Enemy are, cannot be kept in the Field; They desert and carry off their Arms. It also seems reasonable that such should be permitted to go to their homes, to withdraw or otherwise to take care of their families, and property. Under this view it would seem right that as unarmed Militia come in from other Counties, we should discharge those of Prince George, Dinwiddie, and Chesterfield, next to these the Militia of Powhatan; and lastly Henrico, Hanover, Goochland. Indeed those of Amelia and Cumberland were only meant to be kept in the field till those whom I formerly stated to you as intended for the Service of May & June, should come in. I would observe to you that Prince George, Dinwiddie, Chesterfield, Powhatan, Amelia and Cumberland, have not yet got through the raising their New Levies. These Observations will suffice to possess you of the general views of the Executive, and you will be pleased to regulate by them the Discharges of Militia as far as Circumstances will admit.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 1.)*

Baron Steuben

Richmond April 26<sup>th</sup> [27<sup>th</sup>] <sup>328</sup> 1781.

Sir,

An Officer from Cumberland having called on me this morning to direct what should be done with his unarmed Men, I took the liberty by him, of Stating to you the order in which I thought the Militia should be discharged. I did this hastily, while he was waiting, and must now on more mature Reflection, beg Leave to correct, in some Degree, what I then wrote, and to take up the whole subject.

One fourth of the Militia of the Counties of Fauquier, Loudoun, Caroline, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Goochland, Henrico, Culpeper, Frederick, Hampshire, Berkeley, Shenandoah, Orange & Louisa, are still relied on for the Service of May and June, as I informed you in a letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, as is also Spotsylvania, which at the Time of writing that letter we expected would have been stopped by the Enemy's

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<sup>328</sup>This letter is on page 1 of the second letter book for 1781 and the clerk has given it the date of April 26, and he has given the preceding letter the date of the 27th and copied it on p. 2 of the letter book. A careful reading of the two letters, however, shows their relation to each other. The clerk, in the excitement, got the two mixed and also gave the wrong date to one of the letters. It is possible, too, that both of them should be dated the 26th instead of the 27th.



going up Potowmac; These not being come in, and the Enemy approaching, we called for the whole of Prince George, Dinwiddie, Chesterfield, Powhatan, Henrico, Hanover, Goochland and half of Cumberland and Amelia, to form an Opposition until the Counties first named should get in. Whenever therefore the business of discharging may be commenced, the following is the Order in which we would wish Discharges to be given: First, Prince George, Dinwiddie, and Chesterfield, because exposed and their Draught not over; next Powhatan, because somewhat exposed, and their Draught not over; then Cumberland, Amelia and Hanover, because their Draught is not over, lastly, Henrico & Goochland, except the fourths meant to be kept during the months of May & June.

I must beg the favor of you to consider this as altogether superseding my first Letter of this Date on the same Subject. It is possible that a Change of Position by the enemy, by exposing Counties now considered as safe & rendering those safe which are now exposed, may induce a Change in this Arrangement; Should this happen, I will take the liberty of noting it to you.

I am very sorry that we have discharged several hundreds of the Hanover Militia, before we had considered the Subject and settled the order in which discharges should be given: As it has so happened, we think it better not to recall them.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL GARRET VANMETER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, p. 283.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Vanmeter<sup>329</sup>

Richmond April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Sir*

I have directed M<sup>r</sup> Woodrow to furnish Money for the Bounty of the New Levies out of what was put into his hands for the removal of your Militia to Pittsburg.

I am sorry such a Spirit of Disobedience has shewn itself in your County. It must be subdued. Laws made by common Consent must not be trampled on by Individuals. It is very much the interest of the good to force the unworthy into their due Share of Contributions to the Public Support, otherwise the burthen on them will become oppressive indeed. We have no power by the law of raising Cavalry in the Counties generally, but on some similar Occasions we have recommended to the County Lieutenants who have the power of forming their Militia Companies as they please, to form into one Company such Individuals of their Militia as will engage to mount & equip themselves & to serve as mounted Infantry, & we give Commissions to the Officers in the ordinary stile. These may be used as effectually as Cavalry; & men on horseback have been found the most certain Instrument of public punishment.

Their best way too perhaps is not to go against the mutineers when embodied which would bring on perhaps an open Rebellion or

<sup>329</sup>Col. Garret Vanmeter was county lieutenant of Hampshire County.

The Mr. Woodrow mentioned in the first sentence of the letter was Mr. Andrew Moodrow, then serving as quartermaster of the Hampshire militia.

Bloodshed most certainly, but when they shall have dispersed to go and take them out of their Beds, singly and without Noise, or if they be not found the first time to go again & again so that they may never be able to remain in quiet at home. This is what I must recommend to you and therefore furnish the Bearers with the Commissions as you desire.

If you find this Service considerable you will of Course give the Individuals Credit for it as a Tour of Duty.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO BARON STEUBEN.<sup>330</sup>

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 2.*)

Richmond April 27<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

When we desired the resigned and supernumerary Officers to come into Command, we took the liberty, after establishing the Rules by which they should be given, to ask the favor of you to arrange the Commands accordingly. As the Gentlemen are likely to be exposed in action with the enemy, and, if taken, would have no Commissions to produce, Cirsumstances which give them uneasiness, I will ask the favour of you to inform me of the Commands you have given, or you may now think proper to give them, on Receipt of which Commissions shall issue.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 3.*)

To the Members of the General Assembly for the Counties of Fluvanna, Albemarle, Louisa, Caroline, King William, New Kent, Charles City, Prince George Dinwiddie, Amelia, Cumberland, Powhatan, Goochland, Henrico, Hanover, Chesterfield.

Richmond. May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

We deferred changing the place of calling the Assembly, in hopes that every Day would give us a prospect of getting rid of the enemy in the neighborhood of Richmond.

The Arrival of the Marquis Fayette with a detachment of Continental Troops, and the Junction of our whole force together with his, has put these cowardly plunderers under way down the River, and renders this Place perfectly secure, so long as the Army retains its present position. Nevertheless as we know that Rumours have gone abroad very generally, that the enemy are in possession of Richmond, and the Time of meeting of Assembly is too near to admit these to be corrected.

<sup>330</sup>It is not stated in the letter book to whom this letter was addressed. It is taken for granted, however, that it was written to Baron Steuben, in chief command at the time. Lafayette had not yet reached the scene. Moreover, compare this letter with the one written to Baron Steuben by Jefferson on the 24th of the month.

I take the liberty of particularly solliciting so many members of the nearer Counties as will suffice to make a House for adjourning from Day to Day, to attend punctually on the Day of meeting lest this general Rumour of Danger, should prevent the meeting of a sufficient number for Adjournment, which would bring on a Dissolution of the present Assembly and leave the State without one until the next regular Period of Election appointed by the Constitution. I hope that these reasons will excuse my earnest Sollicitation to you personally to attend on the first day of the Session.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO CERTAIN COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 3.*)

County Lieutenants of Elizabeth City, Warwick, York, James City, King & Queen and of Williamsburg.

Richmond May 2<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

You are desired immediately to embody so many of your Militia as you can arm from your County and have them marched under proper officers to join Col<sup>o</sup> Innes at such place as he shall direct.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF GLOUCESTER COUNTY.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 4.*)

County Lieutenant of Gloucester.

Richmond May 2<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

You are desired immediately to embody so many of your Militia as you can arm, if Col<sup>o</sup> Innes shall require so many for the Purpose of defending the Battery at Gloucester town, and to march them there immediately under proper officers.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JAMES INNES.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 4.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Innes

Richmond May 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

As it may be necessary to re-establish the Batteries at Gloucester & York Town, and for this Purpose to transport thither Cannon from other Places, which probably cannot be effected but by impressing Waggons Teams & Drivers, Boats or other vessels and their navigators, you are therefore hereby empowered to make impresses of the said Articles for the purposes aforesaid, having them appraised as the Laws require, and giving to the Persons interested, Certificates of the Articles impressed, their worth or hire as established by Appraisalment or Agreement, and where they shall be injured, or lost in the use, stating that also in the same or a subsequent Certificate.

I am further to desire that you cause an exact list to be returned to the Auditors of all Certificates you shall give, stating the Parties, names, Articles, appraised or agreed value or hire, and any other Circumstances necessary as a Check on Counterfeits or unjust Claims.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. JAMES INNES.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 4.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Innes

Richmond. May 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir,

Having received information that divers Citizens of this Commonwealth in the Counties of James City and York, have lately committed Acts, some of which amount to high Treason, and others to Misprision of Treason; and that some, tho' they have been able so to disguise and conceal their Transactions as that legal evidence cannot be obtained by which they might be subjected to prosecution for Treason or Misprision of Treason in a due course of law, yet have o conducted themselves as to furnish the most pregnant Circumstances of Suspicion that they have been guilty of those offences or are disaffected to the Independence of the United States, and will, whenever they shall have opportunity, aid or advise the Measures of the Public Enemy, which persons, in the present critical Situation of this Commonwealth, it is indispensably necessary to punish for their Crimes by way of Example to others, or to disable from doing mischief: I must therefore, as you are proceeding to that part of the Country, desire and authorize you to make enquiry into the premises, and where you shall have probable Cause to believe that any perspons have been guilty of Treason or Misprision of Treason, that there is legal evidence to convict them thereof, and that an examining Court can be had on them in the County where the offence was committed before there shall be any Danger of a Rescue by the Enemy, you have them delivered to the Warrant of a Justice of the Peace, in order that they may be prosecuted in the usual Forms of the law, and be aiding in their safe Conveyance to the Public Jail in Richmond, if they be ordered to be so conveyed: But where you shall be of Opinion that legal evidence cannot be obtained, that an examining Court cannot be procured in the County before there will be Danger of a Rescue by the Enemy, and that there are pregnant Circumstances of Suspicion that they have been guilty of the offences of treason or Misprision of Treason, or where there shall be pregnant Causes of Suspicion that persons in those Counties are disaffected to the Independence of the United States, and will, when Occasion serves, aid or advise the Operations of the Enemy, that in those Cases you apprehend such Persons & send them in safe Custody to the Jail of this County reporting to the Executive the facts and Circumstances of Suspicion whereon you proceed.

In the execution of these Powers, I must recommend to you that you have no Retrospect to any fact prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> of April last, being the Day the Enemy embarked at Portsmouth, that you single out only those who have been foremost or most daring in their offences, and that



even these be treated by those into whose hands they shall be committed with no Insult or Rudeness, unnecessary for their safe Custody.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. ABRAHAM PENN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 6.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> Abraham Penn<sup>331</sup>

Richmond May 4<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry that the public Situation should be such as to render it necessary to call our Citizens from their farms, at this interesting Season of the year. But the enemy will not suspend their Operations till we can sow or reap, so that we must have an Army on foot as well at these, as the other Seasons of the year.

We have called on eleven Counties to furnish a reinforcement to General Greene, and hope it will be the last Time we shall have occasion to require our Militia to go out of their own Country, as we think it most advisable to put that distant disagreeable service on our Regulars, and to send them forward as fast as raised, and to employ our Militia on Service in our own Country. And I am confident that if the Reinforcement of Militia now under Orders to General Greene is marched, and serves the two Months with him which is intended, that by that Time he will be so reinforced by Regulars as to retain Possession of North and the greatest Part of South, Carolina, and thus to keep the War at a Distance from us. On the contrary if he is not supported by Militia till the Regulars can get to him, he will be driven back and we shall have the whole War on us.

Of the eleven Counties called on, seven have applied to be excused. You will immediately see Sir, what would be the Consequence of complying with their Request.

The Executive have therefore been obliged to insist on their Requisition. M<sup>r</sup> Henry has written on the same subject, as to your County, but the Grounds on which a Relaxation of the order is proposed, being such as every other County has, or as would go to a perpetual exemption from Militia Duty, we cannot withdraw the Call.

Captain Boush has engaged fifty horse to go for three Months, but this is no equivalent for 250 Infantry, to serve two Months. I must therefore Sir, rely on your zeal & Activity to carry the former requisition into Execution.

It is probable you may have among you some Delinquent Militia, who should by Law serve six Months, as a punishment for their Delinquency, these if sent with the Militia might be counted as part.

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<sup>331</sup>County lieutenant of Henry County.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JOHN PEYTON.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 7.)*Col<sup>o</sup> Peyton<sup>332</sup>Richmond May 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am honoured with your letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> instant desiring a suspension of the Draught law. I have at present no Council before whom I can lay it, but as the same Application had been made before by Col<sup>o</sup> Page, and had been declined by the Council on the general principle that the suspending Power given them was intended to be exercised only where such a proportion of Militia had been withdrawn from the County, as rendered the execution of the law impracticable, and as the two members present are of Opinion that the Draught should not be suspended in the present Instance, I apprehend that this may be considered still as the sense of the Executive, and that the Draught should proceed.

P. S.

Your Letters on the Subject of the Arms is referred to the Commercial Agent, with Instructions to settle and pay the Account in State money according to the current exchanges between Specie and Continental & State money. The Gentleman's refusing to receive the money before, has brought on us the loss between the exchange of that and this Day, which will not be allowed again.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 10.)*

County Lieutenants of Henrico, Goochland, Louisa, Caroline, Fluvanna, Albemarle, &amp; Shenandoah.

Richmond May 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The Executive, having determined that future Tours of Militia Duty should be of two months length, after joining the Army, had called in a proper Complement to serve from the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of May to the last Day of June, proposing by that Time to relieve the whole by calling in others: The military officers have however represented that it will be more eligible to change one half monthly, than the whole at the end of every two months, which we have accordingly concluded to do. Some irregularity will arise on our getting out of one method into the other, as half of those meant for the months of May & June must either be discharged the last of May or kept till the last of July. We think the former preferable. I am therefore to inform you that the Militia of your County last ordered into Service will be discharged the last Day of this Month, and to desire that you have a Relief from your County of the same number that is to say men actually with the Army by that Day, to continue in Service two Months. Any six Months Men whom you shall send with them may be accounted in part of the number. You will

<sup>332</sup>Col. John Peyton, of Gloucester County.

do well to point out immediately the Individuals who are to come, and notify them of it, that they may have Time to arrange their domestic Affairs, and to equip themselves; lest the full Quota should fail to march, warn in a number sufficiently larger, that the Deficiency may be made up on the Spot. Should this occasion the meeting of a greater number than you want, you can easily discharge the supernumeraries.

Cavalry in a due proportion &c. as in the preceding Ltre to y<sup>e</sup> Co<sup>ty</sup> L<sup>ts</sup> of Lunenburg & others.<sup>333</sup>

|               |     |                |     |                 |     |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Henrico.....  | 145 | Goochland..... | 129 | Caroline.....   | 245 |
| Fluvanna..... | 70  | Louisa.....    | 140 | Shenandoah..... | 217 |
|               |     | Albemarle..... | 204 |                 |     |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
CULPEPER COUNTY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 11.*)

County Lieutenant of Culpeper

Richmond May 5<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I am to inform you &c. as in the preceding Lre. of May 5<sup>th</sup> Culpeper 351.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 12.*)

Marquis Fayette

Richmond May 6<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Two Persons have applied to me on Behalf of a certain John allison, Citizen under Confinement, as they say, at Camp for some offence.

Tho' perfectly satisfied that nothing will be done under your order but what is right, and assuring them of the same, yet I have not been able to get clear of their solicitations without a letter to you, asking the favor of a Communication of the Case of proceedings before any punishment should take place. I am sorry to add this to the many Troubles you have, but they have urged it to me on the footing of Duty so as to put it out of my power to decline it.

<sup>333</sup>There is a difficulty here. There is no preceding letter to the county lieutenant of Lunenburg and the county lieutenants of other counties. That letter comes after, being dated the 8th of May. The explanation ventured by the editor is that the clerk failed to copy this letter of the 5th into the letter book until several days later, when he was copying the large number to county lieutenants dated the 8th, into which had to be inserted this paragraph in reference to the cavalry, and that he mechanically put it in this letter also. This clerk was not absolutely careful, and he did not clean up his work each day. He apparently copied the letters into the letter book as opportunity offered. Considering this practice and the general excitement and commotion of the times, it is not strange that this letter book—as was the case with its predecessor—should have in it many palpable errors and lie under suspicion of containing others.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 11.)*County Lieutenants of Charles City, King & Queen, Essex, Hanover,  
King William.Richmond May 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I am to desire you to send immediately<sup>334</sup> of your Militia to join the Army under the Marquis Fayette & to continue in Service two Months from the Time of their joining him. Lest the full quota &c. as in the Lre. of May 5<sup>th</sup>.<sup>335</sup>

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 7.)*To the County Lieutenants of Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Greensville,  
Brunswick, Amelia & Cumberland.Richmond May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

The British Army under Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Phillips having landed at Brandon & meaning to press Southwardly; and Lord Cornwallis being now advancing Northwardly with a Design probably of uniting their force, it behoves us immediately to turn out from every County as many men as there are Arms to be found in the County, in order to oppose these forces in their separate State if possible, and if not, to do it when combined; You will therefore be pleased with the Assistance of the Captains and Subalterns to collect immediately every fire Arm in your County in anywise fit for military Service, and to march so many men with these Arms in their hands to Prince Edward Courthouse or to Taylors ferry on Roanoke as shall be most convenient, having Respect to what you shall hear of the movements of the hostile Armies and of our army under Major General Marquis Fayette: The object of your Detachment being to join the latter, and keep clear of danger from the former. When you shall be possessed of the Arms, I think those men should be called on whose regular tour it is to go, unless any should offer voluntarily, in which Case the service should be accounted to them as a Tour of Duty. The Person who receives any fire Arm must be noted by you and held accountable to the Owner for its safe Return, in which he will not be obstructed when he shall be discharged. When the Discharge will take Place we cannot undertake to say. It is fixed that no tour shall exceed two months in the Field, but our expectation is that the present Crisis

<sup>334</sup>The numbers to be furnished by the different counties are not given in the letter book. A Council Journal entry for that day (May 7, 1781) is as follows:

They also advise his Excellency to call in from the County of Charles City 71 men, from the County of King and Queen 102 men, from the County of King William 109 Men, and from the County of Hanover 200 men to join the army under the command of the Marquis Fayette and to remain two months in service; and as Cavalry is much wanted one tenth of the men from each County are allowed to equip themselves as horsemen.

<sup>335</sup>See last two sentences in letter of May 5 to county lieutenants of Henrico, Goochland, Louisa, etc.



will be over in a much shorter Time, and whenever it is over they shall be discharged.\* It is probable that this order will put it out of your power to proceed with your Draught: If so, be pleased to suspend it in it's present State, and to take it up again where you left off as soon as your Men shall Return.

Cavalry in a due proportion, being as necessary as Infantry, you will be pleased to permit and even to encourage one tenth part of those who are to come into Duty, as above required, to mount and equip themselves as Cavalry. They must not be received however unless their Horses are good and fit for Service. A short Sword can be furnished them by the State, tho' if they can procure a proper one with other Equipments themselves they had better do it. Their Horses and Accoutrements shall be ensured by the Public against every thing but their own negligence, and they shall be allowed forage for them in addition to their own Pay and Rations.

The future Movements of the Enemy being uncertain, it is necessary for me to give general Direction to see that all Horses fit for Cavalry which shall be at any time within twenty miles of the Enemy, and all other horses which shall be directly in their Front be removed by their Owners; or if they shall refuse or delay to do it, that then you have them taken by such persons as you shall appoint, and carried to our Camp, giving the Owners a Receipt and Description of them. I need not urge to you that the greatest Events hang on the Dispatch which is used in getting the Militia into the field.

\*In the Letters to Amelia, Brunswick & Greensville add 'Besides those whom you can arm send eighty more, for whom we can find Arms.'

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
SPOTSYLVANIA.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 9.*)

County Lieutenant of Spotsylvania

Richmond May 8<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

The British &c. (as in the preceding letter to the word combined.) This movement of the enemy frees your part of the Country of every probability of Molestation, except from Privateers, against which the Counties uncalled on will be a sufficient Defence. You will therefore be pleased &c. to Richmond where they will receive orders to join Major General Marquis Fayette. When you shall be possessed &c. to the end.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 9.*)

County Lieutenants of Louisa, Caroline, Fluvanna, Albemarle & Orange.

Richmond May 8<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

The British Army &c. to the words 'with these arms in their hands' to Richmond or Prince Edward Courthouse as shall be most

convenient &c. And whenever it is over they shall be discharged except the number called for by my letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst who will be retained to perform a full Tour.

Cavalry in a due proportion &c. to the end.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
KING WILLIAM AND HANOVER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 9.*)

County Lieutenants of King William & Hanover.

Sir,

Richmond May 8<sup>th</sup> 1781.

The British &c. to the words 'with those Arms in their hands' to Richmond where they will receive orders to join Major General Marquis Fayette. When you shall be possessed &c. Whenever it is over they shall be discharged except the number called for by my Letter of yesterday who will be retained to perform a full tour. It is probable &c. to the end.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 10.*)

County Lieutenants of Henry, Pittsylvania, Bedford, Buckingham, Prince Edward, Halifax and Charlotte.

Richmond May 8<sup>th</sup> 1781

The British Army &c. to the words keep clear of Danger from the former. Should the Militia before ordered to join General Greene be not actually marched we should approve of these Arms being put into their hands, and that they proceed to one of the Rendezvouses before mentioned instead of taking a direct Route to General Greene as formerly ordered. The person who receives &c. to the end.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANT OF  
KING AND QUEEN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 10.*)

County Lieutenants of King & Queen.

Richmond May 8<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The British &c. And whenever it is over they shall be discharged except the number called for in my letter of yesterday who will be retained to perform a full Tour. &c. to the End.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
CHESTERFIELD AND DINWIDDIE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 12.*)

County Lieutenants of Chesterfield and Dinwiddie.

Sir,

Richmond May 8<sup>th</sup> 1781

There are a very considerable number (about 164) of your Militia who have been on Duty near two Months; Be pleased to fix on so many

of the rest of your County whether now in the field or at Home; whose regular Tour it is, to go and relieve the 164 first mentioned. We shall call on other Counties immediately to relieve the whole of yours as soon as they can get in.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COLONEL JOHN S. WELLS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 12.*)

Col<sup>o</sup> John Sck: Wells

Richmond May 9<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Bristol Brown and Thomas Kemp inform us that their Families, Clothes and Household furniture are in Portsmouth, and desire a flag to go in for them. The true and sacred objects of Flags have been so much abused, that it is with Reluctance we allow one, but in Cases of real Importance. We think one may be admitted in this instance, provided a vigilant officer can be sent to conduct it, and to see that nothing but their families, and such Clothes and household furniture as they had before the coming of the enemy, be brought away. By this we mean particularly to guard against an illicit Commerce. You will be pleased, taking such time and opportunity as will best suit your Situation, to let them have a flag with a vigilant officer to conduct it for the purpose above expressed.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS AND GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 13.*)

President of Congress and General Washington.

Richmond May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

Sir,

Since the Letter which I had the honor of last addressing to your Excellency, the military movements in this State have scarcely merited Communication, except a very late one.

The Enemy, after leaving Williamsburg, came directly up James River, and landed at City point, being the point of Land on the Southern Side of the Confluence of Appomattox & James Rivers: They marched up to Petersburg where they were received by Major General Baron Stuben with a Body of Militia somewhat under 1,000, who, tho' the enemy were 2300 Strong disputed the ground very handsomely two hours, during which Time the enemy gained one mile only and that by Inches. Our Troops were then ordered to retreat over a bridge which they did in perfect good Order. Our Loss was between sixty & seventy, killed wounded and taken. The enemy's is unknown but from Circumstances of probability it must have been equal to ours: For their own Honour they must confess this, as they broke twice, and ran like Sheep 'till supported by fresh troops. An inferiority of number obliged our force to withdraw about 12 Miles upwards 'till more Militia should be assembled.

The enemy burnt all the Tobacco in the Warehouses at Petersburg and it's Neighbourhood. They afterwards proceeded to Osbornes, where they did the same, and also destroyed the Residue of the Public Armed vessels, and several of private property, and then came to Manchester, which is on the Hill opposite to this place. By this time Major General Marquis Fayette, having been advised of our Danger, had by forced Marches got here with his Detachment of Continental troops, and Reinforcements of Militia having also come in, the enemy, finding we were able to meet them on an equal footing, thought proper to burn the warehouse & Tobo. at Manchester and retire to Warwick where they did the same. Ill armed and untried Militia who never before saw the face of an Enemy have at times during this War given occasion of Exultation to our Enemies; but they afforded us while at Warwick a little Satisfaction in the same way. Six or eight hundred of their picked Men of the light Infantry with General Arnold at their Head, having crossed the river from Warwick fled from a patrole of sixteen horse, every man into his Boat as he could, some pushing North some South as their fears drove them; Their whole force then proceeded to the hundred, being the point of Land within the Confluence of the two Rivers, embarked & fell down the River. Their foremost vessels had got below Burwells Ferry on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, when on the Arrival of a Boat from Portsmouth, and a signal given, the whole crowded Sail up the River again with a fair Wind and Tide, and came to Anchor at Brandon; There six Days provision were dealt out to every Man, they landed & had orders to march an hour before day the next Morning. We have not yet heard which way they went, or whether they are gone. But having about the same Time received Authentic information that Lord Cornwallis had on the 1<sup>st</sup> instant advanced from Wilmington half way to Halifax, we have no Doubt, putting all Circumstances together, but that these two Bodies are forming a Junction.

We are strengthening our hands with Militia as far as Arms either private or public can be collected, but cannot arm a force which may face the combined Armies of the Enemy. It will therefore be of very great Importance that General Waynes forces be pressed on with the utmost Dispatch; Arms & a naval force however are what must ultimately save us. This Movement of our Enemies we consider as most perilous in its Consequences.

Our latest Advices from General Greene were of the 20<sup>th</sup>. When he was lying before Cambden the works and garrison of which were much stronger than he had expected to find them.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES, BENJAMIN HARRISON.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 15.*)

Speaker of the House of Delegates

In Council May 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

I have the honour to communicate to the General Assembly an ordinance of Congress of the 5th Day of April last for establishing



Courts for the trial of piracies & Felonies committed on the high Seas. Also certain Resolutions of Congress of the 16th & 23d of March on the Mode of paying Debts, and furnishing supplies of Money; and of the 20th of April relative to that part of Colo Hazens Regiment which belongs to this State.

In Compliance with the Desire of Assembly expressed in their Resolutions of March the 7th I wrote to the honble Major General Greene inclosing the said Resolution, and asking the favor of him to have such Reports made to me, as would enable me to proceed in the Execution of the Resolution. Copies of my Letter, and of his on the same Subject, I now inclose, together with Copies of my Letters to the Continental and State Quarter Masters who were employed in impressing Horses for the Enterprize meditated on Portsmouth. On the Discontinuance of that Enterprize most of the horses were returned to their Owners, so that I am in hopes the Inconveniences, which that important Attempt had rendered necessary, are now reduced within very narrow limits. full returns are not yet made so as to enable us to state what the Public stands engaged for on that Account.

The Injuries which have been sustained both Public & Private on the late Incursion of the Enemy have been very considerable. That they were stopped in their Progress before they had completed the Circle of Depredation which they had instituted, we are indebted to the spirited Opposition made by our Militia, which obliged the hostile Army to be cautious and slow in its Movements, and ultimately to the great Exertions of the honble Major General Marquis Fayette, who being informed of our Danger pressed forward by very great and rapid Marches and arrived at this place with his Detachment of Continental Regulars when the Enemy were already on the opposite hills. On the junction of his force with that which we had assembled they thought proper to retire.

Their Approach had occasioned a total Removal of public Stores from this Neighbourhood. This Circumstance with the Disorder into which they have of Necessity been thrown renders impracticable at this Time a Compliance with the Desire of Assembly expressed in their Resolution of March 21st that the Condition of the Department of the War office should be laid before them. The Commissioner of that Office is using his endeavours to have them stored and arranged at a more interior situation which done he may be enabled to procure accurate Returns of them.

How these Insults & losses are to be prevented in future, or whether they can be prevented, are Questions fit for the wise Discussion of the General Assembly. A Country so intersected by navigable Waters can be defended by a naval Force alone; and where the Resources of a Nation are not equal to the Equipment of a respectable Navy, perhaps nothing better can be devised then Gallies constructed on plans approved by Experience, But an Asylum for these Gallies seems as necessary as the Gallies themselves, during the Time of their Construction as well as after it. A Battery on each River, at a proper position, protected by such works as would require a Garrison of a single Company only, would in the Opinion of the most respectable

military Characters among us, protect our vessels and in a favorable Position would stop the Passage of an enemy so long as to give Time for the assembling of Militia, or marching an Army to the Support of the Post: These small Works are certainly within the compass of our Finances. Yet we have in vain attempted to have such erected on each River. It has been found that money will not procure Labourers, a militia of Freemen cannot easily be induced to labour in Works of this kind. Slaves are by the laws excluded from the Militia, and wisely as to that part of a Souldiers Duty which consists in the Exercise of Arms: But whether male Slaves might not under proper Regulations be subjected to Routines of Duty as Pioneers and to other military Labours, can only be determined by the Wisdom of the Legislature.

Very great Misfortunes are likely to be brought on us by the tardiness of our Citizens in driving off their Stocks of Cattle, & still more their Horses, on the Approach of an enemy; This Negligince has enabled the Enemy to take Possession of some of the most valuable Horses in the Commonwealth, and to establish a Corps of Horse, which from their Numbers and quality may become very formidable to this State.

I think it necessary to inform the General Assembly that the State is at present without an Engineer. Lt Col<sup>o</sup> Warneck who formerly acted in that Capacity, was made Prisoner by the enemy at Westham, and should he be exchanged, it will remain questionable whether he shall resume his Office. We have it in our Power at present to engage Col<sup>o</sup> Senf, a Gentleman eminent for his Skill as an Engineer, his Zeal and activity. But holding the Rank, Command and Emoluments of a Col<sup>o</sup> in another State, with an Assurance that his Office shall not be discontinued with the War, it is not expected that he would relinquish these, but on the Offer of equal Terms from this State, which under the act of Assembly of October 1776 the Executive are not authorized to engage. I cannot but add that I think he will be a valuable Acquisition and such a one as if lost will not easily be replaced.

Among the Losses which were sustained on the Expedition of the Enemy to this Place in January last was that of all the Certificates of British sequestered Property & Paiment of British Debts, which were kept among the Papers of the Council: The entries in the Books of the Auditors will doubtless supply them but lest any Accident should happen to these, perhaps the General Assembly may think it prudent to direct the Certificates to be renewed under such Cautions as may be necessary to guard against duplicate Certificates.

The Executive according to the Desire of a former General Assembly, having appointed Mr Alexander Stewart to revise and report on the Books of the late Col<sup>o</sup> William Aylett, he has made a Report which I have now the honor to inclose.

I am desired by M<sup>r</sup> Tyler to inform the General Assembly that he declines accepting the Office of a Counsellor & by the honble Mr. Prentis to inclose to you his Letter of Resignation.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES  
IN CONGRESS.

(From Bergh, "*Writings of Thomas Jefferson*," IV, 179.)

The Virginia Delegates in Congress

In Council, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

*Gentlemen*,— A small affair has taken place between the British commanding officer in this State, General Phillips, and the Executive, of which, as he may endeavor to get rid of it through the medium of Congress, I think it necessary previously to apprise you.

General Scott obtained permission from the Commandant at Charleston, for vessels with necessary supplies to go from hence to them, but, instead of sending the original, sent only a copy of the permission taken by his brigade major. I applied to General Phillips to supply this omission by furnishing a passport for the vessel. Having just before taken great offence at a threat of retaliation in the treatment of prisoners, he inclosed his answer to my letter under this address, "To Thomas Jefferson, Esq., American Governor of Virginia." I paused on receiving the letter, and for some time would not open it; however, when the miserable condition of our brethren in Charleston occurred to me, I could not determine that they should be left without the necessaries of life, while a punctilio should be discussing between the British General and myself; and, knowing that I had an opportunity of returning the compliment to Mr. Phillips in a case perfectly corresponding, I opened the letter.

Very shortly after, I received, as I expected, the permission of the board of war, for the British flag vessel then in Hampton Roads with clothing and refreshments, to proceed to Alexandria. I enclosed and addressed it, "To William Phillips, Esq., commanding the British forces in the Commonwealth of Virginia." Personally knowing Phillips<sup>335a</sup> to be the proudest man of the proudest nation on earth, I well know he will not open this letter; but having occasion, at the same time, to write to Captain Gerlach, the flag-master, I informed him that the Convention troops in this State should perish for want of necessaries, before any should be carried to them through this State, till General Phillips either swallowed this pill of Retaliation, or made an apology for his rudeness. And in this, should the matter come ultimately to Congress, we hope for their support.

He has the less right to insist on the expedition of his flag, because his letter, instead of enclosing a passport to expedite ours, contained only an evasion of the application, by saying he had referred it to Sir Henry Clinton, and in the meantime, he has come up the river, and taken the vessel with her loading, which we had chartered and prepared to send to Charleston, and which wanted nothing but the passport to enable her to depart.

I would further observe to you, that this gentleman's letters to the Baron Steuben first, and afterwards to the Marquis Fayette, have been in a style so intolerably insolent and haughty, that both these gentlemen have been obliged to inform him, that if he thinks proper

<sup>335a</sup>General Phillips died at Petersburg on the 13th of May.

to address them again in the same spirit, all intercourse shall be discontinued.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON AND THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 19.*)

His Excellency General Washington & the Honble Virginia Delegates in Congress

In Council May 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The papers of the Executive having been almost wholly lost in the visit which was made by General Arnold to this place, we are endeavouring to procure Copies of as many of them as we can. As the Correspondence with your Excellency is among the most important, I am to solicit the favor of you to permit the Bearer hereof, M<sup>r</sup> Granville Smith to take Copies of any Letters with which you have been pleased to honour the Executive or have received from them previous to the Commencement of the present year. Besides the General Importance of preserving the Memorial of Public Events, it is natural for those who have had a Share in the Administration to wish that under every possible Circumstance the records of their proceedings may guard them against Misrepresentation or Mistake. M<sup>r</sup> Smith has been particularly chosen to execute this Office because of his approved Discretion, and we think ourselves safe in assuring you that he may confidentially be relied on.<sup>336</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. WILLIAM FLEMING AND GENERAL ANDREW LEWIS.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 19.*)

Col. Fleming and General Lewis.

Richmond May 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

The General Assembly have adjourned themselves to meet at Charlottesville on the 24<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> at which Time and place I am desirous of having a Board of Council.

Col<sup>o</sup> Digges and M<sup>r</sup> Prentis and M<sup>r</sup> Tyler having resigned you will see the necessity which impels me to ask your Attendance to make a Board.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 20.*)

The Honble Virginia Delegates in Congress

Richmond May 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Gentlemen,

I have received your Favor of the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. and am obliged to you for the notification of the State of the Continental Money of

<sup>336</sup>This letter with appropriate changes was sent to the Virginia Delegates in Congress.



which we shall endeavour to avail ourselves to prevent Loss to the State.

We are much obliged to his Excellency the Chevalier de la Luzerne for his Readiness to secure us against the malice of the prisoners taken on Board the *Romulus*.<sup>336a</sup> We would beg Leave to add the name of Jonathan Eelbeck to the the others whom we consider as capable of doing us particular Mischief and would not lessen further the Subjects of Exchange in the Hands of our Allies.

The movements of the enemy in the neighbourhood of this place not admitting of that quiet necessary to the Deliberations of public Bodies, the General Assembly have adjourned themselves to meet at Charlottesvillle on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst I rather expect that the want of Accomodations there will oblige them to adjourn again to some other place.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 20.*)

Marquis De la Fayette  
Sir,

Richmond May 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

I was sorry that the Situation of my family had occasioned by absence from this place when you were pleased to send Capt<sup>a</sup> Langhorne to me.

I inclose you a State of the Counties who have been called on to come into the Field, some of them to perform a full Tour of Duty and others to make a present Opposition to the Junction of the two hostile Armies. The Delay and Deficiencies of the first are beyond all expectation and if the Calls on the latter do not produce sufficient Reinforcements to you I shall candidly acknowledge that it is not in my power to do any Thing more than to represent to the General Assembly that unless they can provide more effectually for the Execution of the Laws it will be vain to call on Militia. I could perhaps do something by Reprimands to the County Lieutenants by repeating and even increasing the Demands on them by way of Penalty. If you would be so good as to have returns made to me once a week or at any other stated periods of the particular number of men from each County. Without these we can never know what Counties obey our Calls or how long your men are to continue with you so as to provide in time.

From Hampshire and Shenandoah we expected many Riflemen. From Berkeley and Frederic some, and a few from Culpeper, Orange, Loudoun & Fauquier, but what number may be expected I cannot even conjecture. One Tenth of the whole force (except from the Counties of Frederic, Hampshire, Berkeley, Shenandoah, & Orange who were called on before we had concluded on this measure) were desired to come prepared with Horses to do Duty as Cavalry. The militia which were called to do a full Tour were to join the Army wherever it should be. Those Counties called on to send as many men as they could send armed were to rendezvous at Richmond, Prince Edward Court House and Taylor's Ferry on Roanoke as should be most

<sup>336a</sup>The *Romulus* was a forty-four gun British man of war captured by Captain de Tilly on his expedition to the Chesapeake Bay in February. Aboard were a few Virginia Tories. Jonathan Eelbeck was one of these.

convenient where they were given to believe Orders would be lodged from you for their future movements. These men are collecting to the places of Rendezvous, so that they will need immediately such Orders as you shall be pleased to give them.

I have the pleasure to inclose to you the four Impress Warrants desired by Capt<sup>n</sup> Langhorne.

Capt Maxwell called on me the 10<sup>th</sup> inst and informed me he was building a few Boats at the Ship yard on Chickahominy. I desired him to send a good Batteau Builder to Col<sup>o</sup> Davies to superintend and direct a number of hands whom he would immediately put under him for building Batteaus for the River above the Falls, and that he would set all the rest of his people to building Boats for navigating the lower parts of the river but so light and of such a Form as that they might be moved on Wheels, and that these should be built either here or above the Falls as Safety and Convenience should Dictate. He left me with a promise to do so, and I expect he is engaged in the Execution. His Hands being to remove from the Shipyard that will of course occasion some Delay.

The General Assembly having determined to meet at Charlottesville on the 24<sup>th</sup> Inst renders it necessary for the Executive to prepare for removing there, and particularly for myself to go and see that provision be made for the Reception of the Public Boards and Bodies. I shall therefore leave this place this Evening.

As a very frequent Communication between yourself and the Executive will be necessary I have directed the State Quarter Master to station a Line of Express Riders from your Camp to Charlottesville by whom you will be so good as to communicate your Wants from Time to Time under a full assurance that nothing in my power shall ever be wanting to supply them. Interesting Events will always be acceptable whenever you shall have Time to add them to a Letter or make them the Subject of a special one.

P. S. Lest any Thing should suffer which it is in my power to prevent I have concluded to stay here this Evening and to do myself the pleasure of calling on you at your Quarters tomorrow morning.

Counties and number called on to be in the Field the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of May and to continue two months from the Time of their joining the Army.

|                 |     |                |     |                   |      |
|-----------------|-----|----------------|-----|-------------------|------|
| Frederic.....   | 267 | Fauquier.....  | 252 | Spotsylvania..... | 120  |
| Hampshire.....  | 242 | Loudoun.....   | 407 | Charles City..... | 71   |
| Berkeley.....   | 258 | Caroline.....  | 245 | King & Queen..... | 125  |
| Shenandoah..... | 217 | Albemarle..... | 204 | Essex.....        | 117  |
| Culpeper.....   | 352 | Fluvanna.....  | 70  | Hanover.....      | 200  |
| Orange.....     | 140 | Goochland..... | 89  |                   |      |
| Louisa.....     | 140 | Henrico.....   | 100 |                   | 3616 |

Counties required to send one fourth of their Militia to Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene but afterwards ordered to send them to Taylors Ferry or P Edward Courthouse unless already marched

|              |               |           |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| Henry        | Buckingham    | Halifax   |
| Pittsylvania | Prince Edward | Charlotte |
| Bedford      |               |           |

Counties required to send every man whom they could arm immediately to Taylors Ferry, P Edward Courthouse or Richmond to aid in the present Crisis.

|             |           |              |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Lunenburg   | Louisa    | Spotsylvania |
| Mecklenburg | Caroline  | Hanover      |
| Greensville | Fluvanna  | King William |
| Brunswic    | Albemarle | King & Queen |
| Amelia      | Orange    | Essex        |
| Cumberland  |           |              |

GOV. JEFFERSON TO PERSONS APPOINTED TO REMOVE HORSES FROM ROUTE OF THE ENEMY.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 23.*)

Circular Letter to the Persons appointed by the Marquis Fayette to Remove Horses out of the Route of the enemy.

Sir

There being reason to apprehend that the two hostile Armies under Lord Cornwallis and Gen<sup>l</sup> Phillips will form a Junction and for that Purpose pass through this State along the Road from Petersburg to Halifax.

I instructed the Lieutenants of the Counties lying in that Route to give notice to the Inhabitants to remove all Horses fit for Cavalry within twenty Miles of an Enemy's Army and all Draught Horses lying in their Front and within the same Distance and if they failed to take possession of them and send them to the Army within this State.

Time having been now given for the Execution of this Business lest there should be a Failure in the People or in the County Lieutenants you are hereby authorized to proceed and to take such Horses described as aforesaid as you shall find within the Limits specified; and moreover to proceed along the whole Route from Petersburg to Halifax as far as it lies within this Commonwealth and to require a Removal of all such Horses within twenty Miles of that Route and on Failure of the Owners to comply with your Requisition within a short and Reasonable Time, to take such Horses and retain them either for Public Service or to be returned to the Owners as shall be hereafter directed. Should the Route of the Enemy be different from that expected as before mentioned, you will be pleased to do in the vicinities of that Route what is prescribed before as to the other, for all of which this shall be your warrant. Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth at Richmond the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1781.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. BENJAMIN HARRISON, JR.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 24.*)

Benjamin Harrison Jun<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>

Charlottesville May 21<sup>st</sup> 1781

Sir,

The Council some Time ago came to a Resolution that they would advance Money for the Pay of the Virginia Continental Troops

but for no others. It is therefore not in my power to say that any Money shall be advanced you out of the Treasury for the Payment of any other Troops.

I suppose them in this Instance not liable to Imputation till a precedent can be produced where the Troops of one State have been paid off by another State. The other Burthens which lie on us are greater than we can go through with and if our Northern Brethren will advance Money for any Southern Purpose surely they will for the Payment of their own Troops.

You shall have a Warrant for one hundred thousand pounds whenever you [be] pleased which you will be at Liberty to lay out in the Purchase of hard Money according to the Desires of the Marquis.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 24.)*

County Lieutenants of Powhatan, Chesterfield, Prince George & Dinwiddie.

Charlottesville May 21<sup>st</sup> 1781

*Sir,*

You will be pleased to order all Cattle and Horses which may at any Time be within twenty Miles of the Enemys Camp to be removed beyond that Distance excepting only such Horses as are unfit either for Cavalry or Artillery. Should the Owners not perform this Order within such short and reasonable Time as you shall prescribe you will be pleased to order out proper Officers and men of your Militia to carry such Horses and Cattle to the Marquis Fayette's Head Quarters for the use of our Army having them duly appraised.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
GOOCHLAND AND HENRICO.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 25.)*

County Lieutenants of Goochland and Henrico.

Charlottesville May 21<sup>st</sup> 1781

*Sir,*

Should the Marquis Fayette give you Notice at any Time that there is Reason to apprehend the Enemy will cross James River, you will be pleased to order all Cattle and Horses which may be within twenty Miles wherever they shall at any Time be to be removed &c. as in the Lre. to Powhatan.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
HANOVER AND NEW KENT.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 25.)*

County Lieutenants of Hanover and New Kent.

Charlottesville May 21<sup>st</sup> 1781

*Sir,*

Whenever the Honble Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Marquis La Fayette shall think it necessary and shall so inform you, you will be pleased to have



collected all the Boats and other smaller vessels whether Public or Private on Pamunkey either on or opposite to the Shore of your County and to have them carried to such Places as he shall direct.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 25.*)

David Ross, Esq<sup>r</sup>

Charlottesville May 21<sup>st</sup> 1781

Sir,

As there will be wanting a very considerable number of Saddles, Bridles, Boots and other Accoutrements immediately, I shall be obliged to you if you will be so good as to employ as many Shops as you can in preparing them. There will be no Danger of having too many made before I shall receive such Returns as will enable me to fix the number.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL ROBERT LAWSON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 26.*)

General Lawson.

Charlottesville May 21<sup>st</sup> 1781

Sir,

I received yesterday your Favor by M<sup>r</sup> Archer and will lay the Recommendations before Council as soon as they shall assemble. When that will be I cannot precisely say. There being at present five members only and they much dispersed.

In the mean Time from what passed on the former Occasion as I mentioned to you in my Letter from Col<sup>o</sup> Skipwiths I think you may safely call the Gentlemen into Commands as far as there shall be men for them to command, of those formerly ordered to reinforce Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene and of whom Gen<sup>l</sup> Greene furnished you with a Copy of the List I had sent him. As soon as a Council shall assemble the Business shall be done and dispatched to you by Express.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO DR. MATTHEW POPE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 26.*)

Doctor Pope.

Charlottesville May 21<sup>st</sup> 1781

Sir,

I got the favor of Colo Senf to be the Bearer of a note to Colo Davies or in his absence to any person having the Packages in his hand to have them opened and the Articles you desire taken out and sent to you in a Cart or Waggon.

Necessity is Law, in time of war most especially. You must therefore take possession of any church, barn or other vacant house or houses convenient and necessary for the establishment of a Hospital for which this shall be your warrant.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO PRESIDENT REED.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 27.)*

His Excellency President Reide

Charlottesville, May 22, 1781.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Favor of the 6th inst<sup>t</sup> came to hand yesterday. The movements of the enemy since I did myself the Honor of writing to your Excellency on the subject of our joint boundary having rendered it necessary in the opinion of the General Assembly for them to adjourn to his place, the Executive have of course come hither for a time, this has placed us at a great distance from M<sup>r</sup> Madison and M<sup>r</sup> Andrews two of the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of running the boundary. These Gentlemen also unfortunately reside in Williamsburg a place supposed to be an object with the enemy, and I am not without fear that this new Circumstance will create Difficulties in the time of their attendance. I shall immediately dispatch an express to them with a communication of your Excellency's letter and will on receipt of their answer do myself again the honor of writing to you. In the mean time as there remains but three weeks between this and the 12<sup>th</sup> of June the Day proposed by your Excellency for the meeting of the commissioners, as a part of this will be effluxed before I can receive a letter from our commissioners and it is probable they have to provide for the Safety of their families before their Departure. I will beg leave to consider it as your Excellency's Desire that as early a Day as possible after that may be fixed on, and to take the Liberty of communicating the earliest at which they will be able to attend, according to the answer I shall receive from them.

## GOV. JEFFERSON TO DRS. JAMES MADISON AND ROBERT ANDREWS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 27.)*The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mess<sup>rs</sup> Madison & Andrews.Charlottesville May 22<sup>d</sup> 1781Gent<sup>l</sup>

I have just received a Letter from President Reid acknowledging the Receipt of mine on the subject of running our joint Boundary, deferring answering the particulars respecting the mode of running the line till he can confer with their Commissioners on the subject and in the mean time proposing as the season is fast advancing that your meeting shall be on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. I have informed him that I received his Letter but yesterday which left three weeks only to the day proposed for meeting, that being now removed to a considerable distance from you a part of the time will efflux before I can receive your answer, that the movements of the enemy may perhaps render it necessary for you to take measures for the safety of your families and therefore begging leave to consider it as his desire that as early a day as possible after the 12th of June may be fixed on and to take

the liberty of communicating to him by a future letter the earliest at which you will be able to attend at your two stations according to the answer I shall receive from you. I must now beg the favor of you to let me know what will be the earliest Day by a letter which the Quarter Master at Williamsburg must hand on through the line of expresses to this place.

I write now to Cap<sup>t</sup> Young the Quarter Master to have two good Horses for each of you & a covered Waggon of the best kind to carry the Instruments to Pittsburg in readiness at such time and place as you shall direct.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MAJOR RICHARD CLAIBORNE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 28.*)

Major Richard Claiborne

Charlottesville May 23<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

Your letters of the 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> inst. came to hand yesterday. Experience has for some time past convinced the Council that as the mode of acquiring waggons, horses &c. by Impress is the most irritating so it is the most expensive which can be adopted. they therefore have generally meant to discontinue Impresses and to have purchases made wherever a delay can be admitted and indeed it is questionable where necessity obliges the public to have an article on the spot whether any price which the owner would ask to part with it voluntarily would not be less than appraisers would rate it at.

In answer therefore to your Letter I can only advise your procuring the necessaries required by purchase. In a conversation which I had with Mr. Lyne I mentioned the necessity of paying your Warrants as quickly as possible. He was sensible of it and I dare say will pay it as soon as he has much money.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 29.*)

David Ross Esq Commercial Agent

Charlottesville May 25<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

The Clothing which came here from Philadelphia is ordered to the Point of Fork in the Waggons which brought it. The older Waggons also proceed there.

The Baron Steuben has written to me on the Subject of having the New Levies immediately equipped which I think with him to be very important. You will please to provide for them such articles as he shall inform you are wanting. According to the late Regulations every Thing of the clothing kind should pass through the hands of the Cloathier (M<sup>r</sup> Armistead or Peyton) one of whom is not attending should be sent for.

Though it is not incumbent on the State to provide Stores for the Officers, yet the General Officers are so much taken up with the

Business of Command that they can scarcely do it themselves. I think indeed their Applications would be more proper to the Continental Quarter Masters. However Harmony with them is so essential for the public Good, and the present Requisition of Baron Steuben being as you say very moderate I think it will be better to comply with it taking from him a proper Voucher to debit the United States.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. DAVID ROSS.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 29.)*

David Ross Esq<sup>r</sup> Commercial Agent.

Monticello May 26<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I am exceedingly at a Loss to judge whether it be better to try the Method of Application to the new Commanding Officer for a Passport and run the Risk of losing another Month or two, or to pursue the former plan of applying immediately to Charlestown. With Respect to myself however I can more easily determine that the sending to Charlestown having had the Approbation of Council and having a Prospect within two Days of divesting myself of my Office it would not be proper for me to enter on a new Plan. Nevertheless I think it would be adviseable for M<sup>r</sup> Maury to wait a few Days, that my Successor who will have to go through with any Plan that may be adopted may also chuse such one as he shall think best.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
WASHINGTON, MONTGOMERY, AND BOTETOURT.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 30.)*

County Lieutenants of Washington, Montgomery & Botetourt.

Charlottesville May 28<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Lord Cornwallis from Carolina and a Reinforcement of 2000 Men from New York having joined the hostile Army which was before here and crossed James River renders it necessary for us to bring a very great Force into the Field. As I have reason to believe you have not sent the whole Number ordered to the Southward by my Letter of \_\_\_\_\_, you will now be pleased to send under proper Officers whatever number you were deficient to join immediately our Army under Major General Marquis Fayette. As it is uncertain whether he will retire Northwardly or Westwardly, I would advise that your men come by the Way of Charlottesville should no movement of the Enemy render it unsafe. You will be pleased to understand that the number you are now required to send with those actually marched to the Southward are to make up \_\_\_\_\_ as formerly required. Let every Man who possibly can, come armed with a good Rife and those who cannot must bring a good smooth Bore if they have it.

They must expect to continue in the Field two months from the Time of their joining Army.



Cavalry in a due proportion being as necessary &c. (as in y<sup>e</sup> Lre. of May 5<sup>th</sup> to the County Lieut of Culpeper.)

I need not urge you to the most instantaneous execution of these Orders. Till the Reinforcements now called for get into the Field the whole Country lies open to a most powerful Army headed by the most active, enterprising and vindictive Officer who has ever appeared in Arms against us.<sup>337</sup>

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE COUNTY LIEUTENANTS OF  
ROCKBRIDGE, AUGUSTA, ROCKINGHAM, AND AMHERST.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 31.*)

County Lieutenants of Rockbridge, Augusta, Rockingham, Amherst.  
Charlottesville May 28<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Lord Cornwallis from Carolina &c. (as in the Lre. to Washington.)

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES, BENJAMIN HARRISON.

(From *Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 31.*)

Speaker of the House of Delegates

Charlottesville May 28<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Since I had the honour of addressing the General Assembly by Letter of the 14. instant [should be the 10<sup>th</sup>] I have received a second Letter from the Honble Major General Greene on the subject of Cavalry and another in answer to one I had written communicating to him informations I had received as to the Conduct of a particular officer employed by him in Impressing which I transmit herewith.

I also inclose a Letter which I have received since the same Date from the Honble Dudley Digges resigning the Office of Member of the Council of State.

Further experience together with recent Information from the Commanding Officer within this State convince me that something is necessary to be done to enforce the Calls of the Executive for militia to attend in the Field. Whether the Deficiencies of which we have had reason to complain proceeded from any backwardness in the militia themselves or from a Want of Activity in their principal Officers, I do not undertake to decide. The Laws also to which they are subject while in the Field seem scarcely coercive enough for a State of War.

The Commanding Officer also represents that great Evils and Dangers are to be apprehended from the total Want of Authority of the military power over Citizens within the vicinities of his and of the enemy's encampments. Many of them tho' well disposed are

<sup>337</sup>The letter actually sent Colonel William Preston, of Montgomery County, has found its way back to the Virginia State Library. It was written by Jefferson himself. The first blank is filled with the date of March 29; the next with the figures 787; and the paragraph in reference to cavalry is copied from the letter of May 5.

led by an Attachment to their property to remain within power of the Enemy, and are then compelled to furnish Horses, procure provisions, serve as guides and to perform other offices in aid of their Operations while other of unfriendly Disposition become Spies and Ingelligencers and if taken in the very Fact are not subject to the speedy justice which alone can effectually deter. He supposes that the Lives of our Soldiers and Citizens entrusted to his Care might be rendered much more secure by some legal provision against the unrestrained Right of passing to & from in the neighborhood of the Encampments, and by subjecting the Inhabitants within some certain Distance to such immediate Trial & punishment for leading Attempts against the Safety of our Army or in aid of that of our Enemies, as the Rights of the citizen on the one hand & necessities of War on the other may safely admit.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,  
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 32.*)

President of Congress

Sir,

Charlottesville May 28<sup>th</sup> 1781.

I make no Doubt you will have heard before this shall have the honor of being presented to your Excellency of the Junction of Lord Cornwallis with the Force at Petersburg under Arnold who has succeeded to the Command on the Death of Major General Phillips. I am now advised that they have evacuated Petersburg joined at Westover a Reinforcement of 2000 Men just arrived from New York, crossed James River and on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>s</sup> were three Miles advanced on their Way towards Richmond; at which Place Major General the Marquis Fayette lay with 3,000 Men regulars and militia that being the whole number we could arm till the arrival of the 1100 arms from Rhode Island, which are about this Time getting to the place were our public Stores are deposited. The whole Force of the enemy within this State from the best Intelligence I have been able to get I think is about 7,000 men Infantry and Cavalry including also the small Garrison left at Portsmouth. A number of Privateers and small vessels which are constantly ravaging the Shores of our Rivers prevent us from receiving any aid from the Counties lying on navigable waters. And the very powerful Operations preparing by a joint Force of British and Indian Savages on our Frontier oblige us to employ an Army there of between two and three thousand Men. These Facts with those which I have heretofore been constrained to trouble your Excellency with will enable Congress to form a proper Judgment of the Situation of this State and to adopt such measures for its aid as its Circumstances may require and their powers effect.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 33.*)

His Excellency General Washington

Sir,

Charlottesville May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

I make no Doubt &c. (as in the preceding Letter to the President of Congress). And the powerful Operations meditated against our

Western Frontier by a joint Force of British and Indian Savages have as your Excellency before knew, obliged [us] to embody between two and three thousand Men in that Quarter. Your Excellency will judge from this State of things and from what you know of our Country what it may properly [probably] suffer during the present Campaign. Should the enemy be able to produce no Opportunity of annihilating the Marquis's Army, a small portion of their Force may yet restrain his movements effectually while the greater Part is employed in Detachment to waste an unarmed Country and to lead the Minds of the people to Acquiescence under those Events which they see no human power prepared to ward off. We are too far removed from the other Scenes of War to say whether the main Force of the Enemy be within this State, but I suppose they cannot anywhere spare so great an Army for the Operations of the Field. Were it possible for this Circumstance to justify in your Excellency a Determination to lend us your personal Aid, it is evident from the universal Voice that the presence of their beloved Countryman whose Talents have so long been successfully employed in establishing the Freedom of kindred States to whose Person they have still flattered themselves they retained some Rights and have ever looked up [on] as their *dernier resort* in Distress, that your Appearance among them I say would restore full Confidence of Salvation and would render them equal to whatever is not impossible.

I cannot undertake to foresee and obviate the Difficulties which stand in the Way of such a Resolution.

The whole Subject is before you of which I see only detached parts; and your Judgment will be formed on View of the whole. Should the Dangers of this State and its Consequences to the union be such as to render it best for the whole that you should repair to its Assistance the Difficulty would be how to keep men out of the Field. I have undertaken to hint this matter to your Excellency not only on my own Sense of its Importance to us but at the Solicitation of many members of Weight in our Legislature which has not yet assembled to speak their own desires.

A few Days will bring to me that period of Relief which the Constitution has prepared for those oppressed with the Labours of my Office and a long declared Resolution of relinquishing it to abler hands has prepared my Way for Retirement to a private Station. Still however as a Individual citizen I should feel the comfortable Effects of your presence and have what I thought could not have been an additional motive for that Gratitude esteem and respect with which I have the honor to be [your Excellency's most obedient humble servant.]

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. JAMES HUNTER.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 34.*)

M<sup>r</sup> James Hunter

Charlottesville May 28<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I formerly desired M<sup>r</sup> Ross to write to you for five hundred horsemen Swords made on the Model of the one lodged with you (believe)

by order of Col<sup>o</sup> Washington. I must now desire you will add five hundred more that Number and urge you in the strongest Terms to employ every hand you possibly can in making them; also to let me know what number are ready and how many we may expect by the Week.

Should Col<sup>o</sup> Fitzgerald have sent the Incyclopedie to you I shall be obliged to you to contrive it to Winchester if possible as that place will be safer even than this; should he not have sent it be so good as to forward to him the inclosed Letter.

Lord Cornwallis from Carolina and a Reinforcement of 2000 Men from New York have joined Arnold and crossed James River.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 35.*)

The Marquis La Fayette

Charlottesville May 29<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I am honored with your Favor of the 26<sup>th</sup> as I had been by one of the Day before from Col<sup>o</sup> John Walker who informed me that he wrote at your Request on the Subject of horses. I have now the Pleasure to inclose to you eight Impress Warrants accompanied with Resolutions of the House of Delegates, which I obtained yesterday and to inform you that as soon as the other Branch of the Legislature is convened I believe they are disposed to strengthen you with Cavalry to any Amount you think proper and with as good Horses as you shall think Oeconomy should induce us to take. Stud Horses and Brood Mares will be always excepted because to take them would be to rip up the Hen which laid the Golden Eggs.

I am sorry it has not been in your Power to send me the County Returns of Militia. I assure you that such Returns weekly are indispensably necessary to enable the Executive to keep Militia in the Field. I did however on receiving Information from Col<sup>o</sup> Walker that the Enemy were reinforced call for one Fourth of the Militia of Washington, Montgomery, Botetourt, Rockbridge, Augusta, Rockingham and Amherst which (the last excepted) are our best rifle Counties. They will rendezvous at Charlottesville and there expect your Orders.

Baron Steuben informed me also that only two men were employed in repairing the damaged Arms. I am at a Loss what to think on this Subject as I have received Assurance that one hundred a Week are repaired there and that very shortly they will be enabled to repair 150 a Week. I will take immediate Measures for procuring a State of the Repairs.

I sincerely and anxiously wish you may be enabled to prevent Lord Cornwallis from engaging you till you shall be sufficiently reinforced and be able to engage him on your own terms. This may be the Case when your Superiority in Cavalry shall become decided which I have the most sanguine hopes the Assembly will immediately provide for. In the mean Time the upper Country will afford you a secure Retreat presenting Hills inaccessible to Horse and approaching them to their most dangerous Enemies the Riflemen.



I will take the Liberty of recommending to you that the two Field Officers to be appointed for valuing the Impressed horses be skilled in that Business, and that the same two may go through the whole Business that all may be valued on the same Scale. Also that Officers of mild and condescending Tempers and manners be employed and particularly instructed while they prosecute their Object steadily to use every soothing Art possible.

A high Tone of Conduct will as it did in a former Instance revolt the People against the Measure altogether and produce a Suppression of it.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 36.*)

County Lieutenants of York, New Kent, Hanover, Gloucester, King & Queen, King William, Middlesex, Essex, Caroline, Spotsylvania, Lancaster, Richmond, King George, Northumberland, Westmoreland, Stafford, Prince William, Fairfax, Loudoun & Berkeley.

Charlottesville May 29<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

Information having been given me that a considerable number of Men have deserted from the French Army & Navy in America which the Commanding Officers are very urgent to have apprehended, I must desire you to give orders at the several Ferries in your county, that all foreigner[s] offering to cross at them and having the Appearance of Soldiers or Seamen be examined with great Strictness and if there be good Reason to believe them to be Deserters that they then be delivered to such Persons as you shall appoint to guard them till you can have an Opportunity by Militia or otherwise to send them with a State of the Circumstances of Suspicion to the Headquarters of Major General the Marquis La Fayette.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 37.*)

The Marquis La Fayette.

Charlottesville May 30<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

M<sup>r</sup> Maury informs me there is Reason to expect from Lord Cornwallis a permission to export to Charlestown tobacco for our Officers and Soldiers in captivity there. As you have been fully apprised of what has been done heretofore and a negotiation for the relief of Officers and soldiers of the Continental Line which you have honored by accepting the command seems equally reconcilable to your Office and humanity. I will beg leave to inform you that the State will provide as far as hine hundred hogsheads of tobacco to be sent to Charlestown for the above purpose and to ask the favor of you to negotiate with Lord Cornwallis for the License. The Distance of the Executive from his Lordship is an additional reason for asking this

favor of you. M<sup>r</sup> Maury will lend any aid in his power to promote this business, and is still recommended as a proper person to attend the tobacco to Charlestown.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. ROBERT SCOTT.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 37.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Scott

Charlottesville May 30, 1781.

Sir,—

There is an Indian Chief from Kaskaskia with some companions arrived here, whose rank, services, disposition and proposals are such as require attention from us and great respect. He has particularly desired to be distinguished by a medal, and we think it of so much Importance as to send the bearer express to wait till you can make a medal of the kind formerly made and send it up by him. As he is impatient to return I must endeavour to retain him by such devices as I can and in the mean time press you to lay aside all other work and make one which I shall hope to receive by the return of the bearer as speedily as possible.

That we may not be at the like loss hereafter I must desire you to make half a dozen more and send them to the Executive.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 38.*)

The Marquis La Fayette

Charlottesville May 30<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

I inclosed to Gen<sup>l</sup> Phillips a passport for the British flag vessel the Gen<sup>l</sup> Reidesel and delivered it to Cap<sup>tn</sup> Jones who called on me for that purpose by order of Major General Baron Steuben and was to have accompanied the vessel to and from her port of Destination.

The movements of the enemy and uncertainty where Gen<sup>l</sup> Phillips was then to be found delayed his going till you had arrived. I think Baron Steuben afterwards informed me you would be so kind as to send in the Letter by a flag and an Officer to go with the vessel.

The inclosed Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Miles King written at the request of Captain Gerlach the flagmaster, I take the Liberty of transmitting to you by the person who brought it who is returning to M<sup>r</sup> King and will carry any line of information with which you will be so kind as to favor him.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO MR. MILES KING.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 38.*)

M<sup>r</sup> Miles King

Charlottesville May 30<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir,

The Passports for the British flag vessel was by me put under cover to Gen<sup>l</sup> Phillips and delivered to an Officer appointed by Major

Genl Baron Steuben to carry it in with a flag and to attend the vessel to and from her port of destination.

The movements of the enemy and uncertainty with what part of them Genl Phillips was, prevented the Officer from going on before to have it forwarded. Since this I have heard nothing of it and did not doubt it was gone on. I advise your messenger to go by the Marquis head quarters to whom I will write by him that you may be certainly informed where it is and when to expect it. Your messenger said you have lately written to me but I have not received the Letter. We are still doubtful of the Arrival of a Fleet talked of.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO VARIOUS COUNTY LIEUTENANTS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 39.*)

Circular: County Lieutenants of Powhatan, Chesterfield, Amelia, Prince Edward, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Prince George, Henrico, Goochland, Hanover, Louisa, James City, York, Warwick & Elizabeth City.

Charlottesville May 31<sup>st</sup> 1781.

Sir,

It having become essentially necessary to raise immediately a large body of Cavalry and having no means of providing Accoutrements we are obliged to attempt the recovery of all the public Arms and Accoutrements for Cavalry dispersed in private hands through the state, which if they can be secured will arm and equip a very respectable force. I am therefore to press you instantly and diligently to search for any such in your County, not in the hands of men in actual Service and send them to such place as Col<sup>o</sup> White<sup>338</sup> shall appoint, and if collected before such appointment is known to you. then to send them to the Head quarters of the Marquis Fayette.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 39.*)

The Marquis La Fayette

Charlottesville May 31<sup>st</sup> 1781

Sir,

I had the honor last night of receiving your favor of the 28<sup>th</sup> from Goldmine Creek and this morning that of the 29<sup>th</sup>. I shall be very happy indeed if against such a superiority of Cavalry you shall be able to keep out of the way of the enemy till you are fully reinforced. I imagine Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedons observation as to his want of power to call forth the militia respects the Counties round about Fredericksburg; but all those on the South side of Rappahannock have been called on by the Executive, and as to those on the North Side, they may be called out under our Invasion Law which directs that the Commanding Officer of the militia of any county hearing of the approach of an enemy shall call on so many circumjacent Counties as he shall think

<sup>338</sup> Colonel Anthony Walton White, First Continental Dragoons.

necessary, which Counties by their officers are obliged to obey his call. I have the pleasure to inform you that M<sup>r</sup> Ross's Agent in Philadelphia on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant forwarded 275 Stand of Arms and a ton of Powder to Fredericksburg; on the 11<sup>th</sup> he forwarded another stand of Arms; on the 18<sup>th</sup> he forwarded 600 stand of Arms, and by this time expected the remainder of the 2000 engaged from Congress, by the board of War. I must pray you to take such measures through Gen<sup>l</sup> Weedon or otherwise as may secure these Stores from falling in with the enemy and moving them to where they may be useful to you. Your knowledge of the movements of the enemy will enable you to do this with safety whereas at the distance I am from them my orders however proper when given might by a change of their route lead the Arms into their way. Besides the preceding Arms Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington has sent on 100 Stand and the board of war were sending on 2000 more from Springfield. As to the eleven hundred and odd stand which lately came on from Rhode Island the property of this State, I desired Col<sup>o</sup> Davies after delivering to Baron Steuben as many as he has new Recruits, to return the rest for the militia of your Camp. Will you be so good as to advise him by what route you will have them sent to your camp or to what other place. Two hundred of them being yet in your neighborhood I have ordered them for present Safety to Rockfish Gap from which place they shall be moved according to any order you shall give.

With respect both to those Arms and the new Levies, I am desired to communicate to you the inclosed Resolution of General Assembly. The representation there directed of the present State, quantity and condition of the public Arms would be unnecessary to you who know already more than I do, nor can anybody be more sensible than yourself of the reasons which would urge the detention of the new Levies till other effectual force can be assembled. I shall therefore in Compliance with the resolution only add my desire that you will be pleased to retain all those Arms within the State for its particular defence.

Two Days before the Receipt of your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> I had dispatched one to you inclosing eight Impress Warrants to provide horses from the Counties contiguous to the line of the enemy's march. The Assembly used this undefined Expression in order to give you a latitude of Impress, knowing that a precise circumscription might defeat their intention altogether. This therefore anticipated your desire expressed in that Letter of extending your powers to 50 miles round. It also takes in your second request in the letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> to authorize Col<sup>o</sup> White to impress on the South side of James River. The Counties through which the Enemy marched or bordered on them are within the extent of the impress warrants sent you, one of which therefore being given to Col<sup>o</sup> White will authorize him to impress in Amelia, Powhatan, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Prince Edward, Brunswick and the other Counties there abounding with good horses. I will immediately direct the County Lieutenants to collect all accoutrements for horse belonging to the Public in their Counties and to send them to such place as Col<sup>o</sup> White shall appoint and in the mean time to your camp.



The prisoners of war in the State are most of them in the hands of Col<sup>o</sup> Holmes continental Commissary of prisoners at Winchester. There are a few at Staunton. Your orders to either place will be effectual.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL DANIEL MORGAN.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 41.*)

Brigadier General Morgan

Charlottesville June 2<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

I have the pleasure to inclose to you a resolution of the house of Delegates assented to by so many of the Senate as were here by which you will perceive the Confidence they repose in your Exertions and the Desire they entertain of your lending us your aid under our present Circumstances.

I sincerely wish your health may be so far re-established as to permit you to take the Field as no one would count more than myself on the Effect of your interposition.

I inclose you Commissions for the Officers of three battalions They are of necessity dated at the time of my signing them, and it will be well if you indorse on each the date from which it is to give rank. The more immediate this aid the more valuable it will be.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 42.*)

The Marquis La Fayette.

Charlottesville June 2<sup>d</sup> 1781

Sir,

The House of Delegates and so many of the Senate as were here having reason to believe that Gen<sup>l</sup> Morgan might probably have it in his power to raise a number of volunteers to join in our present defence, have come to a Resolution of which I do myself the honor of inclosing you a Copy. I have transmitted it to him also.

Should you find it not inconsistent with any orders under which he may be acting I make no doubt you will give it the aid of your additional Recommendations to that brave and useful Officer.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO DRS. JAMES MADISON AND ROBERT ANDREWS.

(*From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 42.*)

The Rev<sup>d</sup> Robert Andrews and James Madison.

Charlottesville June 3<sup>d</sup> 1781

Gentlemen,

The advance of the season has induced his Excellency President Reid to propose deferring the final Settlement of our boundary till the first Day of May 1782 which we have agreed to. You will be

pleased therefore to consider that as the time at which your Services will be hoped for by the public.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO PRESIDENT REED.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 41.)*

President Reed

Charlottesville, June 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

The proposition made in your Excellency's Letter of May 14th for deferring the ultimate settlement of your boundary til the first of May 1782 is perfectly agreeable. The observations necessary to fix it with accuracy could not be made in the present season. I also concur in the further proposal to extend Mason's & Dixon's line 23 miles by an ordinary Surveyor, and to have it marked in the slightest manner to answer present purposes, for this purpose I wrote to the Surveyor of the County of Monongalia, who will concur with any person in the work whom your Excellency shall be pleased to appoint on your part. These Gentlemen may settle together the time of proceeding on the business.

GOV. JEFFERSON TO THE SURVEYOR OF MONONGALIA  
COUNTY.

*(From Executive Letter Book, 1781, 2nd volume, p. 42.)*

The Surveyor of the County of Monongalia.

Charlottesville June 3<sup>d</sup> 1781.

*Sir,*

It having become impracticable to settle the boundary between this State and Pennsylvania by Astronomical Observations during the present Season, it is referred by mutual Consent till the next year. In the mean time it is agreed that Masons and Dixons line shall be extended twenty three miles with a Surveyors Compass only in the usual manner marking the Trees very slightly. I am therefore to desire you to undertake to do this in Conjunction with such person as shall be appointed by his Excellency President Reid, and report your work to the Executive. We shall rely on your engaging Chain Carriers markers &c. the expense of which shall be paid by the public.

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